

Waite's brother welcomes Israeli gesture: 'It looks like the beginning of the end'

## Arabs' release gives new hope for hostages

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

ISRAELI yesterday released 51 Arab prisoners and handed the bodies of nine fundamentalist fighters to the Red Cross in a gesture that could herald the end of the hostage saga in Lebanon.

The action represented a breakthrough for Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, who had been asked by Muslim kidnappers last month to take a personal role in arranging a global hostage exchange.

The Israeli Defence Force said yesterday that the 51, including five women, were being freed in recognition of the efforts of the UN secretary-general, and a Hezbollah leader said he expected more Westerners to be released soon.

Up to ten Westerners are still being held by kidnappers from the pro-Iranian Hezbollah organisation, including the Britons Terry Waite and Jack Mann. Last month the group released the British journalist John McCarthy, who delivered the kidnappers' appeal to Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, and the American Edward Tracy. It was made clear, however,

that no further releases could be expected until some of the four hundred or so Arabs being held in Israel and south Lebanon were freed. Israel in turn insisted that it must be given firm information on seven of its servicemen missing in Lebanon before it would make such a gesture.

Yesterday's sudden release of prisoners and bodies was the result of fresh information that reached Israel on Tuesday concerning two of the men. The defence force statement said it now had concrete evidence that one was dead and that it also had new, but inconclusive information about the second. Both had been ambushed by Hezbollah gunmen in 1986. Last night, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli deputy foreign minister, said information on a third serviceman was expected in the next few days, and he hoped news of the remaining men would follow. Up to three are believed to be still alive.

On receiving the information about the first man, Uri Lubrani, Israel's co-ordinator for Lebanon and chief hostage negotiator, immediately ordered the prisoner and body releases in an attempt to keep the momentum going. "I hope that what has happened now is just the beginning," Mr Lubrani told a press conference. "We have no rules or regulations to follow except our determination to speed up the return of our captives."

The Israelis were particularly hoping that their gesture might trigger a counter offer in Tehran, where Señor Pérez de Cuéllar yesterday met President Rafsanjani. The UN secretary-general also planned to see the families of Iranian hostages in Lebanon. Tehran has linked the fate of the Western hostages with concrete information on the four men, who were kidnapped by Christian-backed Phalangist forces in 1982.

Israel's gesture was welcomed by people on all sides of the hostage question. David Waite gave his most optimistic assessment since his brother Terry was kidnapped in 1986, saying: "It looks as if it is the beginning of the end at last. This seems to be a positive move on the part of the Israelis. We are also very much encouraged by Mr Pérez de Cuéllar's visit to Iran."

John Major, who will be seeing the Israeli prime minister in Paris today, said: "I hope this gives added impetus

to the UN secretary-general's efforts. Our wish is to see all hostages released and reunited with their families as soon as possible."

The senior Shia spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammad Mahdi Shamsudien called on Lebanese kidnappers to release more of their captives so that the file of foreign hostages in Lebanon could be folded forever. He said Señor Pérez de Cuéllar had a substantial card in his hands and urged those responsible for holding the hostages to take a positive step to support his effort. "We also suggest to those holding the Israeli soldiers to take a similar step."

A Hezbollah leader suggested that such a step might be taken, saying: "I expect Islamic groups holding the hostages to free some of them in return for the release of some of the struggles and the handover of the bodies." But asked when that might be, Hussein Musawi could say only: "I think soon, but I don't know when. It could be next week, next month or more."

First word of the impending release of the Arabs yesterday came when the Red Cross was asked to send buses to Khiam prison in the Israeli security zone in southern Lebanon. Twenty-two detainees were released to their families in villages inside the zone, while the others were taken into Lebanese territory to be freed.

One of those released was Mohammed Khodr, who had been held for eight years for his membership of the pro-Syrian Amal militia. "I want to start a new life and begin a career," he said. "All my military activities proved to be useless." Those freed did not include the Israelis' most prominent detainee, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, who was abducted from his home in 1989.

Shortly before the prisoners were released, a more macabre ceremony was conducted at the Israeli border post of Rosh Hanikra, where the bodies of nine Hezbollah gunmen were handed over to the Red Cross. The corpses had been exhumed from a graveyard in northern Israel where more than two hundred Arab guerrillas are buried. The wooden coffins, each with a name on top in English and Arabic, were brought to the checkpoint atop Israeli military vehicles.



Embracing freedom: Yasser Ibrahim, who was a prisoner for five years, being welcomed by his mother in Beirut

## Gorbachev woos America by pulling troops out of Cuba

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev and Boris Pankin, the Soviet foreign minister, yesterday offered further sweeping political concessions to the West in an apparent attempt to attract massive Western aid and stave off economic disaster.

In a sharp reversal of foreign policy, Mr Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union was about to negotiate the withdrawal of an 11,000-strong training brigade from Cuba, and told James Baker, the visiting US Secretary of State, that Moscow intended to "modernise" its relations with Cuba.

Only last week, Mr Gorbachev had expressed caution about reports of a possible change in Soviet policy towards Cuba.

Mr Baker, for his part, indicated a US change of heart on aid to Moscow. He said Washington would extend aid as soon as the Kremlin agreed with the republics on a "concrete plan" for a market economy. This is a marked shift from earlier US insistence that the Soviet leadership should implement a free market for a period of time before aid could be granted.

Mr Pankin, meanwhile, told delegates to the Moscow human rights conference that the Soviet Union accepted all principles of the Helsinki final act in full and would review the cases of all those who might even marginally be considered political prisoners and those refused permission to emigrate.

He also promised to speed

up implementation of the emigration law, due to become fully operational in January 1993, and expressed support for international monitoring of human rights.

Alluding to earlier Soviet arguments, Mr Pankin said that human rights should enjoy primacy over all other considerations and international monitoring could not be considered interference in internal affairs.

Often, he said, "things can be seen more clearly from the outside". Mr Pankin also pledged that the Soviet Union intended to observe unconditionally all the country's

obligations under current and previously signed agreements, including those in the field of arms control.

His words were clearly intended to calm Western fears that a less cohesive Soviet Union, or even its disintegration, would bring uncertainty about control of the Soviet armed forces, and in particular its nuclear weapons.

The Soviet moves on Cuba and on human rights followed last week's recognition by Moscow of the Baltic states' independence and showed how keen the Soviet leadership is to smooth relations with the West and how desperate it judges its economic plight to be in the approach to winter. Evidence of the Soviet union's desire for Western assistance came in the form of a request to the European Commission for more than \$6 billion worth of food aid. The request was reported to have been signed by the Soviet Union's acting economic supremo and prime minister of Russia, Ivan Silayev.

Continued on page 22, col 1

## Lib Dems promise anger but no pacts

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats would "blow the election like we blew the last one" if they allowed themselves to be sidetracked into endless theorising about hung parliaments, they were warned yesterday.

Des Wilson, their campaign director, told the party's conference in Bournemouth that Labour could not win and promised that there would be no pacts or deals.

The Liberal Democrats, he said, would fight the election as they had never done before "single-mindedly, with anger and passion, on the corruption of the system and the need for wholesale change". This time,

he said, they would not lose their nerve or concentrate too narrowly on electoral reform.

He accused Labour of running away from socialism and the Tories of running away from Thatcherism. The Conservatives, he said, were running a corrupt system to suit themselves.

Paddy Ashdown will spell out in his keynote speech to the conference today what his colleagues are calling "the real citizen's charter" and set out his vision of a "quality economy" Britain.

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Matthew Parris, page 22

## Gulf war deserter is dismissed and jailed

UN talks, page 9

AN ARMY court martial yesterday jailed for 14 months a soldier who refused to fight in the Gulf war and dismissed him from the service "with disgrace" after he was convicted of desertion.

Five senior officers took 70 minutes to decide that Gunter Victor Williams, aged 28, was guilty of desertion and two charges of conduct "to the prejudice of good order and military discipline". Williams

had denied the charges during the three-day hearing at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, southeast London.

The verdicts and sentence are subject to confirmation by Major General Robert Corbett, the commanding officer, London District. Williams went absent without leave on the eve of his departure for the Gulf.

Propaganda comp, page 3

## Lawyers call the shots for Martina and lover

From JAMES BONE IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS



Navratilova at the Fort Worth court yesterday

IF THERE is one unhappy truth that Martina Navratilova and Judy Nelson, her former lesbian lover, have learned this week, it is not only that human relationships are fragile, but that American courtroom dramas benefit lawyers more than their clients.

The two women are close to an out-of-court settlement, but thanks to themselves, not their attorneys. Yesterday Ms Navratilova, nine times Wimbledon champion, arrived at the pink post-modernist courthouse in Fort Worth, Texas, at 8am to meet Ms Nelson, formerly a doctor's wife, with whom she shared

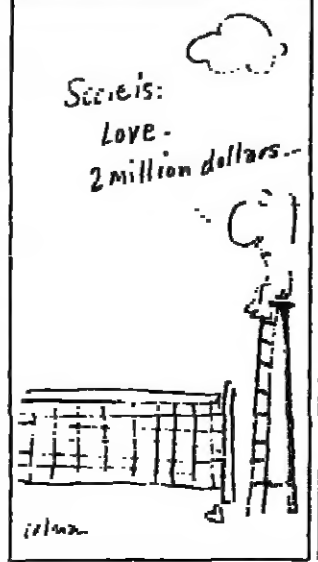
six years of her life. They had a 40-minute heart-to-heart chat alone in a jury room which seems to have brought them close to settling Ms Nelson's claim, amounting to some \$2 million, for a share of Ms Navratilova's tennis winnings.

But an acrimonious dispute over the role of Jerry Loftin, Ms Nelson's lawyer, who used also to work for Ms Navratilova, soon afterwards set back, if not scuppered, the deal. "Jerry Loftin is holding up his client's settlement to protect his fee and avoid disciplinary action, which is a clear conflict of interest," Ms Navratilova said as she entered court for

the afternoon session. "I am still willing to listen to settlement offers from Judy Nelson, but not until Jerry Loftin disqualifies himself or gets disqualified and Judy Nelson acknowledges the invalidity of the non-marital cohabitation agreement."

One of Mr Loftin's legal assistants, Becann Sisemore, is seen on a videotape tape witnessing the agreement's signing, but she testified in court that she drew up the agreement alone. Ms Navratilova's lawyer contends, however, that she was still working.

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Price of love, page 16

## Major heads for clash with France on wider EC

From PHILIP WEBSTER AND PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

BRITAIN and France were on a collision course over enlargement of the European Community and monetary union last night after President Mitterrand spoke out against the community developing into a "vague sort of free trade zone" and John Major prepared to call for it to be ready to open its doors to the newly emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

Shortly before Mr Major arrived in Paris for talks with the French president, M Mitterrand used a televised press conference to lay down hard line positions on the two key issues that the British prime minister was preparing to raise with him.

As their talks got underway Mr Major immediately called on the French to drop their block on more generous terms for the import of beef from Poland which is delaying talks on an association agreement between Poland and the EC. Using strong diplomatic language, Mr Major told the French president that it was both difficult and unfortunate that last week's meeting of foreign ministers had failed to reach agreement on an issue when the community should have been sending out a clear political signal for the reform process in Eastern Europe.

In what had appeared to be a calculated sideswipe at Britain, M Mitterrand only two hours earlier had spoken out against the community becoming a sort of free trade zone "as certain of its members have sought from the very start." He insisted it was "imperative" for the community to adopt treaties of economic, political and monetary union by the end of this year. M Mitterrand made clear his opposition to the sort of expansion of the EC envisaged by John Major. It was not possible simply to open it up to new members, without regard to existing rules.

Mr Major will use an important speech in the French capital this morning to set out his vision of a community stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals. He will call on the community to grasp the challenge presented by the failure of the Soviet coup and the end of communism in Eastern Europe, urging it to seek ways of widening itself.

## IN THIS MONTH'S GQ:

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- GOLF MANIA, MARTIN
- AMIS, EMOTIONAL
- BREAKDOWNS AND...
- OH GOD...
- IT'S NO USE... WE JUST...
- CAN'T GO ON.



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### RELATIVES (2)

Liza Minnelli has shared more than fame with her mother. But is alcohol and drug abuse really so bad for children of the afflicted? Page 13

### CREW'S MISSIVE

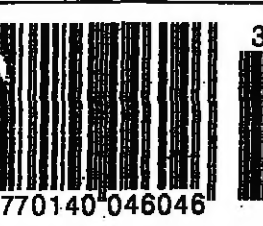
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# Princess embraces childhood cuddles to heal emotional scars



Princess: "Emotions need not be suppressed"

THE Princess of Wales yesterday urged parents to devote more time to cuddling and hugging their children as a protection against emotional wounds that could last a lifetime.

She told an international conference of child psychiatrists in London that one in ten children had unhappy upbringings which could become a permanent burden. "Often a conflict between parents can distract either parent from meeting the needs of their children, or worse still, the children become pawns in their parents' struggle," the princess told the congress of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, of which she is patron.

"Parents sometimes desert families, leaving their children bewildered and bereft with no explanation, let alone the opportunity or encouragement to express their feelings. Many children even travel through life feeling responsible in some way for their parents' separation."

The Princess of Wales, perhaps recalling her own childhood, spoke yesterday of unhappy upbringings. Thomson Prentice was listening

and their three other children. Her parents both re-married. The princess said that through her contacts with children's hospitals and charities, and with Relate, the marriage guidance organisation, she knew how children suffered from emotional disturbances.

Unless children were taught how to come to terms with their emotions, they risked falling off what she called the emotional conveyor belt. "I do not believe that emotions are necessarily nuisances which need to be suppressed or concealed," she said.

People who had been prevented from showing emotion as children often felt they must have the same inhibitions when they became parents. "To travel through life with unbalanced emotions can feel like carrying a heavy rucksack of rubbish... we have to look at encouraging 'ex-children' - today's adults - to set an example of stability for our children to follow."

There was also a place for the trained eye and the sympathetic, but professional ear, she said. For some, these might be found in a psychiatrist, but there was a stigma about seeking psychiatric help that should be tackled to make the

profession more "user-friendly". New guidelines to protect disabled children's rights were launched by Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

Social services and voluntary agencies will have to set up a register of disabled children in their areas as part of the Children's Act which becomes law on October 14. These children will be given the same legal protection as if they were in care.

Accommodation provided by social services should take into account the child's special needs and parents and the children should be consulted whenever possible.

Mrs Bottomley said: "The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children with disabilities should enjoy a full and decent life - that is exactly what the act and the philosophy which underpins it aims to achieve."

Her comments came after a critical report from the National Children's Bureau claiming that the UK does not meet the minimum standards set out in the UN convention.

The report says that the education system violates one of the convention's key provisions that children should be consulted and listened to. Its author Peter Newell, said reforms for children which were being introduced in this country were haphazard and inconsistent.

## Tyneside riot aftermath

# Hunt for ringleaders starts as teenagers appear in court

By PETER DAVENPORT

THIRTEEN people had appeared before magistrates on Tyneside by last night in connection with the riots on the Meadow Well estate in North Shields earlier this week.

Seven men, aged between 15 and 19, were accused of petrol bombing the home of a police constable and were remanded in custody for a week. The others were granted bail. They included three men accused of having offensive weapons in their car and a woman aged 18 accused of looting from a shop damaged in the disturbances on Monday and Tuesday. After the first arrests, a team of 30 detectives has been formed to track down the ringleaders of the riot. The officer leading the investigation said that he believed that fewer than half a dozen "active criminals" in their early twenties were the main troublemakers.

Chief Superintendent Brian Duffy, the divisional commander in North Tyneside, which covers the estate, said: "The investigation will continue until we get the ringleaders. The evidence against them is mounting hourly."

Police do not regard any of those arrested as ringleaders but believe that they can help to identify the instigators. A confidential telephone line has been set up to enable people on the estate, dismayed by the violence and destruction, to pass on information.

A high profile police operation throughout Tuesday night and early yesterday prevented any repetition of the widespread violence. At the first sign of an incident police in riot equipment moved in and any youths seen gathering on street corners were quickly dispersed. The strategy worked and kept disturbances to a minimum with only

sporadic stone-throwing incidents reported.

Mr Duffy yesterday defended the tactics employed during the main disturbances, in the light of complaints from some residents and shopkeepers that the rioters had been allowed a free hand to burn and loot for hours before police moved in. Mr Duffy said that his priorities had been the protection of life, ensuring the presence of enough trained and equipped officers, the taking of ground from the 200-strong mob of

rioters and then the keeping of control of the streets. He said that by yesterday there was increasing evidence of a "return towards normality".

Today North Tyneside council is to unveil details of a regeneration package to improve life on the estate, acknowledged as one of the most deprived in the country. A spokesman emphasised that the initiative was not a response to the disturbances but was the culmination of months of planning and discussions between local and

central government.

□ Poll tax capping is threatening the ability of police forces to cope with the latest wave of violence on inner city estates, leaders of police authorities will tell Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, tomorrow.

However, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, told the annual conference of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities in Huddersfield that the government had increased spending on the police.

## Booklet holds key to response

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

NORTHUMBRIA police patrolling the streets of North Shields this week are the latest officers to borrow from the distilled wisdom of more than a decade of British police riot experience held in a slim light blue booklet.

The Association of Chief Police Officers' Guide to Public Order Policing, kept at every police headquarters, offers a compendium of tactics gleaned from Nottingham and Brixton in London to the miners' strike, Tottenham, Handsworth and hundreds of smaller incidents that never made the headlines.

No chief constable is bound by the booklet and the foreword underlines the fact that the volume is not an instruction manual whose advice must be strictly followed. Each area and each incident require their own treatment.

The ideas behind the booklet power a machinery developed over the past decade and built on the philosophy of creating an organised response to disorder within the existing police system. The days of the Nottingham Hill and Brixton riots when shirt-sleeved police protected by hastily acquired dustbin lids, ordinary patrol cars and their traditional truncheons faced rioters are over.

The core of the response to disorder now lies in the use of 1,100 specially trained police support units across England and Wales. The units either work within their own forces or can be seconded to other forces. Each one is made up of an inspector, two sergeants and 18 constables.

The units are split into two groups. Some are trained to a top level and may be kept together. London has up to 24 such units.

Across the country a second tier of officers are trained at a lower level. They carry out normal duties but may be raised as units if needed.



Lesson in style: Princess Beatrix steps out yesterday wearing her new uniform, complete with hat, on the way to her first day at Upton House school, Windsor

## Kinnock plans new arts deal

By SIMON TAIT AND MELINDA WITTSTOCK

BROADCASTING would become the responsibility of a new ministry of arts and media in a Labour government, but possibly not until a second term, Neil Kinnock, the party's leader, said yesterday. The new minister would also have to wait some time before being elevated to cabinet rank.

The capture of the broadcast portfolio appears to be a triumph for the shadow arts minister, Mark Fisher. His predecessor, the late Norman Buchan, resigned before the last election because the former home affairs spokesman refused to relinquish broadcasting responsibility. "Views have changed and we have done an awful lot of work since 1987," Mr Fisher said.

But Mr Fisher's victory may be a pyrrhic one, as the new ministry will be given a long time to "evolve", as much as five years, before obtaining either the broadcasting portfolio or cabinet clout. Labour

indicated yesterday that the home secretary, not the arts minister, would appoint the next BBC chairman in 1996. Senior BBC sources said yesterday that they would be unhappy if ministerial responsibility for the BBC fell outside cabinet rank.

Labour also committed itself to retaining the BBC licence fee for the renewal of its royal charter in 1996, ruling out speculation that it might opt for direct taxation. "We want to avoid all Treasury interference," Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, said.

Labour would phase out admission charges for national museums and introduce investment incentives to rescue the British film industry. "Serious consideration" would be given to introducing a national lottery for the arts.

But the more far reaching aspect of the arts policy announced by Mr Kinnock is that local authorities would be

made statutorily responsible for funding the arts, a policy which was welcomed yesterday by Lord Palumbo, the Arts Council chairman. Councils would be helped by part of the revenue support grant being protected to help them with the arts, but there will be no sanction against authorities which decide not to subsidise the arts. "We expect they would be shamed into it by what is being done elsewhere by other local authorities," Mark Fisher said.

Mr Kinnock pledged that the aim would be to adopt the European ambition of committing 1 per cent of gross national product to the arts. At 0.2 per cent, Britain is eleventh of the 12 EC members.

Labour will introduce a package of reforms to strengthen editorial independence, including a Freedom of Information Act which will be published in legislative form by the end of the year.

## Holidays selling at a record rate

More than half a million Britons have already booked their holidays for next summer, despite brochures having been available for only two weeks (Harvey Elliott writes).

The huge surge in holiday bookings has resulted in some travel agencies and tour operators doubling their takings when compared with the same period last year. Thomson has sold 200,000 holidays and reports an overall increase in sales of 30 per cent.

Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director, said: "The industry is a leading indicator of the health of the economy. We led the way in and we are now leading the way out of the recession as the 'feel good' factor takes hold."

Keith Betton, of the Association of British Travel Agents, said: "The recession is clearly on the way out as far as we are concerned. Every 1 per cent reduction in the mortgage rate means that the average family with a £50,000 mortgage has an extra £300 in his pocket to spend and it seems that holiday is a first priority."

## Hurricane crashes

A Hurricane aircraft crashed at RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire yesterday as the pilot attempted to make an emergency landing after an engine failure. The pilot, Squadron Leader Alan Martin, aged 45, was last night being treated for a leg injury.

The aircraft, the older of two Hurricanes in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, was on its way to the Jersey air show from RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, accompanied by a Lancaster bomber. A board of enquiry into the crash has been set up.

## Delay holds up funeral

THE wife of Air Chief Marshal Sir Kenneth Cross, Lady Brenda, who was battered to death in an antique shop where she worked last week, cannot yet be buried because of an administrative error, an inquest was told yesterday.

The delay in the funeral was caused because forensic science photographs had not been developed preventing the pathologist from filing a report. The inquest was adjourned.

## Drug trial claim

A resolution is being put to the European Parliament in Strasbourg today claiming that Karyn Smith, aged 19, from Solihull, West Midlands, who was jailed for 25 years in Thailand for drugs smuggling, was denied a fair trial. Stephen Hughes, MEP for Durham and Blaydon and deputy leader of the British Labour Group, says evidence favourable to Karyn's case was not considered. His motion expresses concern that no progress has been made towards a royal pardon.

## School enquiry

An enquiry is to be launched at Scoforth House school for mentally handicapped children, in Lancashire, where the headmistress and two staff have admitted cruelty. Lancashire county council, which runs the school, said a dossier is to be compiled on events which led to the court appearance of Brenda Ford, aged 51, the headmistress, and two colleagues. They are to be sentenced in three weeks.

## Warrant granted

Detectives questioning a man in connection with the murders of Dr John Gore, aged 58, a nuclear physicist, and his wife Ruth, yesterday obtained a warrant from magistrates in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, to detain him further. Police had questioned the man for 36 hours since the bodies of the couple, who had been axed to death, were discovered at their home in Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

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## Connery coup to bolster SNP vote

By KERRY GILL

SEAN Connery, better known for his spy-tracking exploits as James Bond, has volunteered for what many would consider a more uphill task - increasing the popular vote of the Scottish National Party.

Mr Connery, who has made no secret of his desire to see an independent Scotland, will spearhead a campaign to be launched at the nationalists' annual conference in Inverness next week. Party officials yesterday remained coy about Mr Connery's involvement but it is understood that his voice will be heard extolling the virtues of an independent, sovereign Scotland in a television broadcast.

The SNP's poll rating is

down to about 17 per cent after a period two years ago when the nationalists enjoyed backing from almost a quarter of the Scottish electorate. Mr Connery's recruitment by the leadership is seen as a way of attracting younger votes, and giving credibility to the party's key policy of Scottish independence within Europe.

Jim Sillars, SNP MP for Govan and party vice-president, was reluctant to talk about the campaign yesterday. "I welcome his participation. It is very helpful that someone who is a Scot and has succeeded at international level will bring that perspective to bear but you had better speak to those concerned with the broad-

cast," he said. One senior party source, however, said: "Sean is extremely keen to promote the idea of independence in Europe, which is something that he completely backs. It is like a rocket boost for us."

Contractual arrangements meant that Mr Connery was unable to appear in the five-minute broadcast which deals with the loss of Scottish wealth to England. He provided the voice-over and wrote some of the script. He is understood to have been happy for the recording to take place at his home in Marbella, but this proved unnecessary as he was visiting St Andrews this week.

The nationalists intend to use Mr Connery to maximum impact in the future.

He is likely to be offered a role in other party political broadcasts, although he is unlikely to seek a formal role in the SNP. The party source added: "Sean was extremely meticulous. He even wanted to be assured that the information in the broadcast was completely accurate before taking part."

Mr Connery said yesterday: "People are enthusiastic about Scotland all over the world. The sooner they get to grips with finding out if they can govern, the better. They should be allowed to make their own mistakes and pick up the tab for whatever it is." Asked if he would consider entering national politics, he replied: "I have enough problems."



# Gunner jailed for desertion before start of Gulf war

By PETER VICTOR

GUNNER Vic Williams, who went absent without leave after refusing to fight in the Gulf war, was yesterday jailed for 14 months and dismissed with disgrace from the army. He was found guilty of desertion and two counts of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

A court martial in Woolwich, south London, was told that Williams, aged 28, of 17 Training Regiment, Royal Artillery, intended to leave the regiment and that his commanding officer had indicated that he no longer wished Williams to serve under him. Asked by Brigadier Alastair Clark, the court martial president, whether he had anything to say Williams replied: "Sir, I wish to state that I have a clear conscience, sir."

After 70 minutes of deliberation the panel of five senior officers agreed unanimously that Williams was guilty of the three charges.

Demonstrators chanted outside the court martial as the case was heard on the final day. On hearing the verdict he said nothing but appeared shaken and at one point leaned on his counsel's table.

Williams declined to give evidence himself. Helena Kennedy, QC, his counsel, called on the panel to dismiss all the charges. Clearly the court martial had been aware of the considerable publicity and public interest in the case, she said, because it dealt with important issues to do with the rights and duties of soldiers in the 20th century.

She read extracts from his diary detailing his emotional struggle as he considered giving himself up on his return to Britain from Europe. One entry described how he stopped to consult a priest en route to London. Another entry on January 17, 1991, detailed how he received the news that fighting had broken out in the Middle East and his thoughts that then would have been a bad time to hand himself in.

With regard to his speaking out in public she said there was a fear that his conviction on the two misconduct charges would lead the public to perceive a double standard. "Queen's regulations state that members of the armed forces should not speak out against government policy," she said. "Senior service personnel have been speaking out against us to regiments - against Tom King, the defence secretary, and government policy."

She said the overriding consideration was one of the principle of armed forces personnel being able to act according to their consciences. "Did Gunner Williams absent himself without lawful excuse? In his opinion he did have lawful excuse because what he was being asked to do was immoral."

Judge Advocate Michael Hunter advised the panel, however, that it could not accept that argument. It could not interpret or question the law, only the facts as presented to it.

In mitigation Captain Stephen Wallace, who took charge of Williams while he was in custody and found him working during his time on bail described him as "intelligent, articulate with behaviour of the very best". He said that Williams had done excellent work and that his character had been exemplary.

Williams faced the charges after he left his base in Dortmund, Germany, in December 1989, the day he was due to fly out to the Gulf. The two charges of conduct to the prejudice of good order followed his appearance and speech at an anti-war rally in Hyde Park last February and his appearance and interview on a television programme.

Both during the rally and on the television programme he said that the UK's military intervention in the Middle East was "wrong" and that it was an Arab problem in which Britain was interfering.

The sentence is subject to confirmation. Last night, James Nichol, Gunner's solicitor, said he was considering an appeal. "I believe that in life some things are worth fighting for, my freedom of conscience is one of them," Amnesty International refused to comment on whether Williams would be adopted as a prisoner of conscience.

## How protesters were handed propaganda coup

By JAMIE DETTMER

ANTI-WAR protesters were handed a propaganda victory when they were confronted on a cold night outside Downing Street last January by a dishevelled young man claiming that he had deserted from his unit in protest against the deployment of British troops in the Gulf.

The chance encounter with members of the Reservists against the War sidetracked Gunner Vic Williams from handing himself over to military policemen at the Royal Artillery's headquarters at Woolwich barracks, south-east London. According to a newspaper interview he gave in January, he fully intended giving himself up ten days after going absent without leave from his post at Dortmund, Germany.

He had gone to Woolwich once before to surrender to military justice but lost his nerve at the last minute. He encountered the protesters on his way back to the Royal Artillery's headquarters.

"I started talking to them and one of them offered to put me up for the night," he said. "From that moment a marriage of convenience was made. Reservists against the War, a group spawned by the Trotskyite Socialist Workers' party, had a media-attracting anti-war spokesman to put on platforms at demonstrations. The soldier's lonely protest, which mainly involved driving purposelessly around Europe after leaving his unit on the eve of its departure to Saudi Arabia, was at an end. He discovered a wealth of emotional support. As he said later while campaigning against the war: 'I've made more friends than I've lost.'"

There are those in the army who claim that Gunner Williams was manipulated by the peace movement, particularly by members of the Reservists against the War. It could be argued that the army had little alternative but to court martial him after his speeches at peace rallies attacking the war and British military involvement in the Gulf.

It is believed that if he had turned up at Woolwich before making his speeches, he would

have been encouraged to use the established procedures available to soldiers wishing to object and leave the army. Under those, a serviceman or woman who has an objection has to inform their commanding officer, who, with the unit's chaplain, will establish if the problem is genuine. If the commanding officer does not accept the objection and blocks departure from the forces, the soldier can appeal to the Ministry of Defence. During the court martial Gunner Williams claimed that he did not know about this right and that its existence is not common knowledge in the ranks.

James Nichol, solicitor for Gunner Williams, claims that he knows of about 20 soldiers



Williams: sidetracked from giving himself up

who failed to obey call-ups. None have been court martialled.

Peace campaigners are dismissive of the argument that Gunner Williams was manipulated by unscrupulous protesters. Majorie Thompson, chairwoman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said: "He is a genuine, down-to-earth and intelligent man who knew his own mind. Yes, Reservists against the War provided him with the support he needed but his commitment went well beyond anything that could have been manipulated."

She added: "He did not have much time for their general politics and he told me once that he had asked them to tone down their rhetoric at an anti-war meeting."



Search for clues: detectives turn over an abandoned car found near the spot where the body of murdered Lynne Rodgers was found on Monday

## Picture issued in hunt for killer

By BILL FROST

DETECTIVES hunting the killer of Lynne Rodgers, the teenager whose body was found concealed beneath bracken in woodland, yesterday released an artist's impression of a man they want to interview.

He was seen in a coffee shop in Charing Cross station, central London, last Wednesday when Miss Rogers, aged 17, went to meet a prospective employer for a job interview. Detective Superintendent Michael Bennison, who is leading the murder investigation, said: "The impression shows a man of about 40. He is about 5ft 4ins tall, very sun-tanned and immaculately groomed. He has brown hair and was wearing an expensive blue, double-breasted suit."

A commuter who saw the man at Charing Cross has told police that he was good-looking and smoked cigars. Mr Bennison said: "The man in the drawing was seen in the coffee shop stubbing out a half-smoked cigar and then lighting another one immediately. He was also fiddling with the cellophane wrapper."

The witness told police the man met a girl resembling Miss Rogers, who came from Catford, southeast London, and they walked off together. A taxi driver told police that he believed he had seen Miss Rogers waiting by the spire outside Charing Cross. He thought he had seen the teenager getting into a blue-grey Vauxhall Cavalier or Carlton saloon being driven by a short man. The car registration number had a C prefix.

Miss Rogers was last seen at Charing Cross about 10am last Wednesday after arranging to meet a man who telephoned her and offered a £15,000 secretarial job involving travel. She told relatives that her prospective employer would be taking her to Shoreham, Kent, before going



Artist's impression of man police wish to interview

## Husband made vicar swear adultery denial on Bible

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN ANGRY husband who suspected his wife of an adulterous affair with their vicar insisted the vicar swore on the Bible that he had not touched her, a Church of England consistory court was told yesterday.

In a confrontation at the vicarage in Henfield, West Sussex, in February last year Stephen Edwards said he accused the Rev Tom Tyler, aged 51, of touching his wife's breasts and exposing himself during visits to their home.

Giving evidence on the second day of the hearing at East Grinstead magistrates' court, Mr Edwards, aged 35, said he asked the vicar: "Have you been fiddling about with my wife? Do you swear on the bible you have not touched her? Put your hand on your heart and swear you have not touched her."

Mr Edwards said the vicar replied: "I do, I do." Mr Tyler, a father of four

and vicar of St Peter's, Henfield, for 12 years has denied two charges of conduct unbecoming a clerk in holy orders by committing adultery with Mr Edwards's wife Barbara, aged 32, in 1988 and 1989. Cross-examined by Anthony Scrivener, QC, for Mr Tyler, Mr Edwards was asked why, if he suspected the vicar of conducting an affair with his wife, he had continued to associate with him.

Mr Edwards said as far as he was concerned he had contained the situation by barring the vicar from his house. "I wasn't sure what he had been up to, I knew he was pushing his luck. In the back of my mind I knew something was going on."

Mr Scrivener asked: "Did you think they had been kissing and cuddling?" Mr Edwards replied: "Yes."

Earlier, Mr Edwards described how he had sur-

prised the vicar and his wife at his home four months prior to the confrontation.

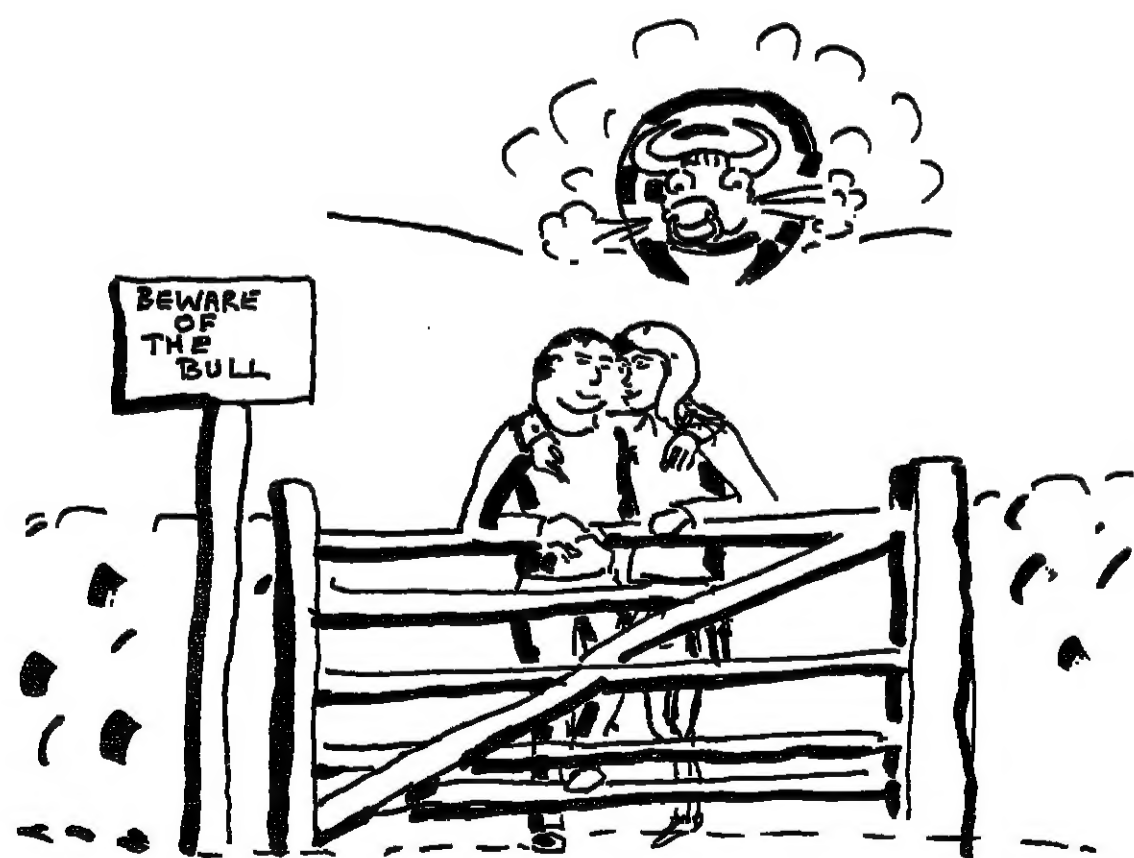
He had returned home early one morning and saw the vicar's car outside. As he approached the house he saw the dining room curtains being drawn and as he opened the front door his wife fled the room looking shocked and surprised. Behind him he saw Mr Tyler smoothing down his cassock and looking "red faced and flustered".

The vicar made a hasty exit. After discussing with his wife what had happened Mr Edwards forbade her to allow the priest into their home when he was not present.

The hearing continues today. As the consistory court heard evidence against Mr Tyler on Tuesday, burglars ransacked his home and escaped with silverware, jewellery, a video camera and Dinky toys worth £4,750.

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## Wonders of the Modern World

### Modern miracles

The 14 wonders of the world? This weekend, *The Times* Saturday Review follows its series on the ancient wonders by naming the seven wonders of the 20th century, chosen by readers. The lists have flooded in, full of surprises, quirks, the obvious and the inspired. On Saturday the best single list, chosen by the editor of *The Times*, will be published along with others that caught our attention. The winning list has earned its author a fabulous holiday (in one of the places on the list). Be sure of Saturday's *Times*

## Channel 4 switches to home talent

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 4, criticised by independent producers recently for buying American sitcoms such as *Roseanne* and *Cheers* instead of relying on British talent, is hitting back this autumn with several new "home grown" comedy series.

Alumni of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, discovered by Channel 4 talent spotters, branch out with their own series. Tony Slattery and Mike McShane team up for *S & M*, an improvised sketch show, and Paul Merton has his own programme, *Paul Merton - The Series*. *Drop The Dead Donkey*, the innovative and topical newsroom comedy, returns for a second series.

Documentaries feature in the £45 million autumn schedule, with the launch of two series. *South* will feature documentary films from the southern hemisphere and *Secret History* will explore recent history's more horrific episodes.

Celebrities will be invited to present their own obituaries on *The Obituary Show*, Channel 4's answer to Thames's *This Is Your Life*.

## Young inventor drills for gold

By JOE JOSEPH

HALF the country's school-children might well be spending their lunch breaks smoking banana leaves behind bicycle sheds, but the other half seems to be precociously well advanced.

John Major, on behalf of the Engineering Council, yesterday dished out cheques, trophies and encouraging smiles to boys and girls who had invented things you never thought you could possibly need but now wonder how you managed to live without.

Many of the children are already touting their smart ideas around patent agents and industry boardrooms with the hope of moving their finances away from pocket money and into a Cayman Islands account.

Top prize went to Adam Seedhouse, aged 18, from Oldbury Wells school in Bridgnorth, Shropshire, for an electric drill fitting enabling accurate drilling at different angles. The device uses the bubble principle used in spirit levels and was probably the most simple of the many inventions on

show at the London ceremony. Seedhouse has been told that his drill fitting could earn him a fortune.

Mr Major also handed a special prize to Nicola Young, aged 18, from Wigan, who recently joined the navy, for the best project by a girl. It was a device to help transfer frail, elderly people from a bed to a chair which she invented while working at a nursing home.

The other inventions ranged from the worthwhile to the wacky. There must be plenty of demand for a contraption that allows milkmen to pick up several bottles out of a crate at once, although the name *Milky Pick* might need revising.

But will there be much of a queue for a candle-holding device for choristers? Isn't dripping wax what helps them reach top notes, anyway? Its designer, Matthew Orion, from Chelmsford, is 14. Before very long, he might come up with something really useful, like a month-long sleeping pill to see us through the next general election campaign.



## Enquiry into hospital given right to summon witnesses

By RONALD FAUX

THE committee of enquiry into allegations of ill treatment of patients at Ashworth high security hospital on Merseyside is to have powers to subpoena witnesses, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said yesterday.

The decision to strengthen the authority of the committee under Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, comes in the wake of the refusal of Prison Officers' Association members to co-operate with the enquiry unless the hearing was given statutory status.

The association claimed that nurses at the hospital who were members of the association were being denied natural justice. John Bartell, the association chairman, said last night the decision was disappointing. He accused Mr Blom-Cooper of changing the goal posts. The counsel for the

association was now drawing up an application for a judicial review of the enquiry proceedings.

Announcing the decision to give the enquiry a statutory basis with full powers to subpoena witnesses, under section 125 of the 1983 Mental Health Act, Mr Waldegrave said the action came after the association's decision to instruct its members not to participate further in the existing investigation. The enquiry had opened with an investigation of the death of Sean Walton, a patient at Ashworth found dead in an isolation room the day after he had been allegedly struck with a billiard cue by a member of staff.

"I recognise that the nursing staff at Ashworth, as at other special hospitals, look after patients who may be both

difficult and very dangerous but nursing care requires skill, dedication, forbearance and courage. Nursing staff carry heavy responsibility and much trust is placed in them. It is all the more important that where there are allegations of ill treatment these are fully and properly investigated," Mr Waldegrave said.

He had every confidence in Mr Blom-Cooper and other members of the committee which will meet in Liverpool on Monday to announce procedures for the enquiry in its new form.

Mr Bartell said the association withdrew because its members at Ashworth had lost confidence in the enquiry. Its counsel was not given access to relevant medical evidence, and police investigations into the allegations which exonerated staff were not consid-

ered by the enquiry. The association claims to represent 95 per cent of the nursing staff at Ashworth.

Mr Bartell asked whether the chief constable of Merseyside, who had not been prepared to give evidence at the enquiry, would now be obliged to release reports by police officers who had investigated allegations against nursing staff at Ashworth which said the allegations were unfounded.

The mental health association MIND and the Royal College of Nursing last night welcomed Mr Waldegrave's decision.

Two male nurses at Ashworth hospital are to face disciplinary hearings after allegations that hard-core pornographic videos were shown to patients by ward nursing staff.

## Changes planned in evidence guidelines

By LIN JENKINS

SIR Thomas Hetherington, legal secretary to the Attorney-general when consent was given for the Maguire Seven prosecutions, said yesterday that information which discredited the forensic science evidence used would have been available at the time if proposed procedural changes had been in place.

Sir John May, heading the inquiry into the Woolwich and Guildford bombings convictions, had been told that only sketchy information about the validity of scientific evidence was available when the decision to prosecute was taken. He said criteria being considered for the future acceptance of forensic science evidence were that: the experiment, investigations and theories should be generally accepted by that branch of the scientific community; evidence should be given by scientists whose integrity was not in dispute; and all data, including laboratory notes and case reports, should be attached to the case papers.

Sir Thomas, a former director of public prosecutions, said if such a system had been in place in 1975, "I would have had the knowledge I have now". He denied that the decision to prosecute the Maguires for allegedly running an IRA bomb factory on forensic science evidence alone was a departure from normal policy. The hearing continues.



Heart beat: Sir Peter Imbert, Metropolitan Police commissioner, with fellow heart patients Laura Bailey, and Jonathan Williams, both five, yesterday launching the British Heart Foundation's sponsored walks weekend

## Thatcher accused of failing science

The state of science in Britain, while desperate, is far from hopeless, the scientific journal *Nature* declares today in a manifesto for British science (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The document says that much of British science is in a mess, for which Margaret Thatcher should take some of the blame. Her interests, it says, were fickle and narrow-sighted. "Often she would appear to encourage projects and then demand independent reviews of them, like a cat with a mouse."

Problems identified in the manifesto include the narrow curriculum in schools, the weakening of the infrastructure (especially the universities), the lack of research spending by industry, and the weak link between discovery, industrial innovation and prosperity in Britain. Many of the cures proposed by *Nature* involve restoring morale among academic scientists, mostly by spending more on research and salaries.

Technology, page 33

## Editors' tribute to Jean Rook

National newspaper editors yesterday paid their last respects to Jean Rook, the *Daily Express* columnist dubbed Fleet Street's First Lady, who died of cancer last week, aged 59.

More than 100 mourners gathered for her funeral at the Surrey and Sussex crematorium, at Wrotham, West Sussex. Sir Nick Lloyd, the *Daily Express* editor, said: "She was a genuine, charismatic star. She wrote brilliantly and was just as big as the people she interviewed. You can't replace her."

## Mansion talks

Talks on the future of Heveningham Hall, a threatened Georgian mansion in Suffolk, will be held at the environment department today. The meeting will be the first exploratory contact between civil servants and the receivers since the company owning the Grade I listed building went into receivership last week with debts of £3 million.

## Black vote drive

Tory party leaders have urged local associations with a large Asian or black vote to strengthen contacts between candidates and community leaders in an attempt to woo millions of voters from ethnic minorities. Sir John Cope, the party's deputy chairman, yesterday promised to increase translations of campaign leaflets into minority languages, backed up by ministerial visits and speeches.

## Nuclear warning

Hinkley Point A nuclear power station may operate until 1995 provided safety work costing up to £15 million is undertaken, the government's nuclear watchdog said yesterday. If not, the 25-year-old twin reactor plant at Bridgwater, Somerset, could close down by the end of the year. Nuclear Electric said it was confident of meeting the safety and work schedule requirements.

## Parish power

Parish councils should be given greater powers and be restored in London in the local government review, the Boundary Commission said yesterday. The government is planning a local government commission to create a single tier of all purpose councils to run services outside London and metropolitan areas. The commission said parish councils had a vital role as a vehicle for grass roots democracy.

## Wives may get pensions rights years after divorce

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL proposals on divorce which would involve wives returning to the courts to obtain a share of their former husband's pension when they reached retiring age were published yesterday.

The reforms, contained in a study commissioned by the Pensions Management Institute, the professional body for the pensions industry, propose that a husband's pension be treated as income after retirement entitling a former wife to a share of it.

The proposals were criticised yesterday by the Solicitors' Family Law Association, which said they would undermine the "clean break" principle in divorce. The Law Society also expressed reservations, but welcomed them as a further contribution to the divorce debate and urged the setting up of a working party of lawyers the pensions industry.

Launching the proposals in London, Robin Ellison, their author and senior partner of Ellison Westhorp, said: "There were 320,000 marriages last year and 160,000 divorces. For many people the pension is as important, if not more important than housing, as a matrimonial asset." At the crux of his proposals is the idea that the pension should not be treated as an asset but as deferred income.

Mr Ellison acknowledged that these proposals went against the clean break principle. "But maintenance goes against that principle; there is no reason why pensions should be any different. It is really treating pensions like income after retirement, and not cash in the bank."

The aim, he said, was to find a formula that did not involve administrative or financial costs for the pensions industry.

● The ultimate value of a good pension is often more than a substantial house and should figure as prominently in any divorce settlement

(Stephanie Hawthorn, editor of *Pensions World*, writes).

Not all pension schemes have adapted to the changing nature of society. Few have effectively tackled the problem of a member with a number of consequent spouses. With many people's main retirement income at stake, it is vital that the fairest possible partition of pension rights is made. That has not always been possible as the subject is highly complex.

At present the Inland Revenue allows pension rights to be allocated to former wives if they are dependents. But it

is already hard enough for many people to enforce maintenance payments let alone pension rights in 30 years' time. Some spouses may leave company schemes to take out personal pensions which might be harder to trace.

The courts may also find it difficult to assess the amount to make the subject of any order. In the longer term European Community policy is against pension rights derived from the spouse and the best policy may be for housewives or other carers to accumulate their own pension for the valuable work they do.

## Fivefold increase in repossessions

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

ONE in eight homeless families in England fell behind with their mortgage repayments, according to the latest government figures. Repossessions are five times the level of two years ago.

Homelessness caused by mortgage arrears, which accounts for 12 per cent of the total in the second quarter of the year, is the same as the first quarter, but up 3 per cent on the corresponding three months last year.

The percentage in London and other metropolitan districts has remained stable in the past five quarters, but there has been a marked rise in non-metropolitan areas. In the second quarter last year, the figure was 12 per cent. That jumped to 17 per cent in the first three months of this year and was up to 18 per cent in April-June.

Local authorities found permanent accommodation for 36,100 households in the three months to June, compared with 37,900 in the preceding three months and 34,800 in the second quarter of last year.

Two-thirds of the households have children.

● More than half the houses in multiple occupation need attention to meet health and safety standards, the Audit Commission says (Christopher Warman writes).

At the present rate of action by local authorities, it would take 15 to 20 years to improve the 180,000 multiple occupation houses in need of work, out of a total of 335,000 in England and Wales. That does not allow for others falling into disrepair in the meantime.

The commission criticised the inadequate information available and the lack of action by some councils. It said that if the less productive authorities performed at the level of the best 25 per cent, the total number of actions taken could increase by three quarters, with no increase in staffing levels.

The commission urges the government to undertake research to help councils identify unfit housing and to provide better information to tenants of private rented housing.

## Rare spider jumps into record books

By KERRY GILL

ONE of the rarest spiders in Britain has been discovered for the first time, it is believed, in Scotland, in wilderness north of the Forth river in Stirlingshire.

Members of the British Arachnological Society, who were surveying spiders on Flanders Moss, the desolate lowland bog owned by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, stumbled upon six tiny "jumping" spiders, *Heliophanus damphi*, previously recorded only twice in the British Isles.

The spiders, which grow to between three and four millimetres in length, have excellent eyesight and, rather than spinning a web, sit and wait for their prey to appear



Jumping spider: recorded only twice before in Britain

then jump on it. Examples were found in Britain in 1986 and 1989 on the Cors Fochno nature reserve, an internationally renowned lowland bog in Wales.

Jim Stewart, from the society, was with the wildlife

trust group when he found one male and five female spiders. The group was part of the Peatlands Campaign Consortium, set up to protect Britain's peatlands.

"We were quite sure that the spiders didn't belong to any of the species listed in our books," Mr Stewart said. "When we sent them off to Peter Merrett, the recognised authority on British spiders, he confirmed that we had got a first for Scotland."

The spiders were discovered on bog myrtle and in birch scrub on Flanders Moss, an area rarely visited by humans. Nigel Dox, campaigns co-ordinator for the trust, said: "It just goes to show how much we still have

to discover about our lowland raised bogs and how important it is that we give them complete protection. When bogs are destroyed by commercial peat extraction or open cast mining there could be any number of animals like this being wiped out before we even know they are there."

Jumping spiders are more common in northern and central Europe. They have been found in Sweden, Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Russia. The discovery in Scotland brings the total number identified in Britain to eight. They mature between June and August and the arachnologists hope to find more males next summer.



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## Big housing shortages loom for new students

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

VICE-CHANCELLORS have warned their university colleagues in the midst of a record recruitment drive not to take more students than they can house. Several admitted yesterday, however, that new students face weeks in temporary accommodation when term begins.

Universities have already accepted more applicants than last year, when they had the biggest intake to date. Admissions officers are forecasting a 10 per cent increase, while polytechnics are expecting an 11 per cent rise. As a

result, an additional 20,000 students will need beds at a time when many of those returning are without accommodation, forced by a shortage of vacation work and their exclusion from welfare benefits to give up flats and houses over the summer. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals has issued a circular warning universities to take early steps to avoid damaging scenes of homeless students at the start of the academic year.

Most universities have responded to a change in their funding system which demands increased recruitment before they are considered for extra budget increases. Several are stretching their resources to the limit as a result.

## Opposition to loans moderated

OPPOSITION by vice-chancellors and polytechnic directors to student loans is moderated today with the publication of a paper proposing a new version of the government's scheme (John O'Leary writes).

The paper, although not adopted as policy by either group, was written by the director of Newcastle Polytechnic, Laing Barden, and the vice-chancellor of Southampton University, Gordon Higginson, with Nicholas Barr, a London School of Economics lecturer who has specialised in student support.

They conclude that a restructured loans scheme would be preferable to a graduate tax, which has been supported by both groups. The authors say that the link between interest rates and the retail price index should end and that graduates should pay near-market rates. Repayment periods should be extended from five to 25 years.

At Salford university, for example, recruitment is up by almost a third. A spokesman said: "I could foresee problems with accommodation. We guarantee a place for all new students in university-owned or controlled accommodation, but it will be difficult to fulfil this time."

Bristol university, given a 17 per cent increase in funded places, has exceeded its own targets and will have 2,500 new students next month. Members of staff will take in students and hotel places have been booked. Brunel university, in west London, has recruited about 300 students more than it intended. Some will be asked to share rooms designed for single occupation. Even at Durham university, where 100 new beds have been added, a shortfall is expected because the number of places offered has increased by 200 on last year.

The Universities Central Council on Admissions has placed 8,000 more students than at this time last year, and is forecasting a final total of 120,000, 10,000 up on 1990.

## Builder cashes in on faked rouble find

Peter Johnson explains why a 19th century master forger has created a dilemma for Scotland Yard

PSST, wanna buy roubles? In Moscow, Western visitors shun them and currency touts are cold-shouldered at every street corner. But in London, roubles, both forged and genuine, have become saleroom hot property, creating a headache for Scotland Yard and a dilemma for dealers and collectors.

A master-forger's kit, the life work of an Austrian émigré who appears to have directed his own brand of economic perestroika from suburban south London in tsarist days, is at the heart of the rouble trouble. The circumstances of the kit's discovery are as bizarre as its history: it was rescued from a demolition skip by a builder.

Phillips expects £20,000 for the kit on October 4 in a sale that includes, from another source, an indisputably genuine 100-rouble note of 1872, valued at £8,000. In the forger's board, however, there are 103 similar notes and others of lesser denominations, all "immaculately, painstakingly and convincingly" faked, according to Phillips — a haul theoretically worth £1 million had it been genuine.

Scotland Yard has asked Phillips for details of the kit, which also includes watermark moulds, trial runs, photographic copies of Catherine the Great's portrait, serial number lists, colour specifications, bundles of unused banknote paper and documents suggesting that a large-scale faking operation went on in the last two decades of the 19th century.

But in spite of complaints that the expertly forged 100-rouble notes could cause chaos in the collector market, the Yard ruled that the sale was not illegal. The Bank of England also raised



In the money: a genuine 100-rouble note held above the forgeries shows how expertly the fakes were crafted

no objection. "It's a bit like buying an 'old master' from a copyist," Detective Sergeant Dick Ellis, of the art and antiques squad, said. "There's nothing illegal in selling the painting as a copy, but it's a different matter if, later, it is passed off as the real thing."

Phillips's rivals remain uneasy. "I am surprised they are selling such a thing," Richard Bishop, of Christie's, said. "There is no way of controlling what happens to the forged notes in the future, unless each one is over-stamped as a forgery."

At Phillips, Michael O'Grady said: "We will keep a list of serial numbers of the forgeries and everybody in the trade and collecting market will be aware of them."

Mr O'Grady and Brian Asquith, a Phillips colleague, have built up a picture of the double-life of Leon Warnerke, an Austrian-born civil engineer turned master forger, who settled in

Camberwell in the 1870s. From shards of a brittle negative, they have even produced his photograph.

Letters and receipts show that he spread his purchases of photographic and printing materials all over Britain. Some letters from abroad, in Polish, Russian and French, have been treated with chemicals over part of the innocuous text to disclose messages in coded numerals.

Mr Asquith said: "The operation involved such impressive talents and organisation that it could not have been a one-man affair. He may have been part of an 'official' secret operation to destabilise Russia's currency."

An historian suggests his methods "point to an anarchist job". From the turn of the century Mr Warnerke's trail goes cold. Secret agent, anarchist, or just an adopted Camberwell boy trying to make a dishonest rouble? History hides the answer.



Portrait of crime: Leon Warnerke, the rouble forger

## Aircraft equipment register launched

A national avionics register has been launched to combat the spread of electronic equipment from light aircraft (Stewart Tendler writes).

The register will store details of members' equipment, issue each item with a number and provide tags to attach to equipment. Aircraft on airfields and hangars can be particularly vulnerable and radios, navigational aids and radar can be removed and easily hidden.

The register, an initiative between London police, crime prevention experts and private industry, costs £40 for the first year's subscription and £25 per year thereafter. Pilots buying secondhand equipment can check it to see if equipment is stolen.

## Car seat appeal

Child car seat manufacturers were told yesterday to make fitting instructions simpler after a boy aged 15 months died in a road crash. Coroner Michael Coker said at an inquest at Atherstone, Warwickshire, that a degree in engineering was needed to understand some instructions.

## Call to mind

A policeman answering a 999 call to a car set alight by thieves found it was his own. The thieves had taken the keys from a desk in unmanned Dowlais police station. Merthyr Tydfil.

## Stream death

David Innes, aged 27, a post office worker from Silksworth, Tyne & Wear, was found dead in an unpowered car in a stream by the A34 near Newbury, Berkshire, by police who stopped to investigate a hole in the roadside hedge.

## Rare bird killed

A marsh harrier, a rare summer visitor to Britain and which is protected by law, has been found shot dead on a farm in Norfolk.

## Bilingual teabags

Glenette, a company that sells a lot of tea in Wales, has introduced Welsh as well as English on its teabag packets.

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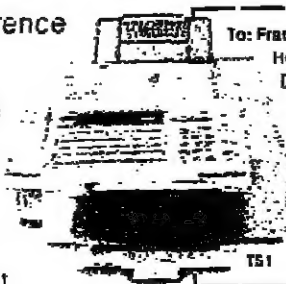
It's printed on the sort of paper you type on. So it's still crisp and white. It's printed with an ink-jet printer so the words are still black. It boasts an easy-to-replace ink cartridge so your fingers stay clean.

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# Delegates endorse leaders' poll reform gamble

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday formally endorsed their leadership's gamble that they can make constitutional reform a main issue in the forthcoming general election.

The party is now irrevocably committed to a campaign to persuade voters that no party will succeed in reversing national decline until the system of government is changed.

In what proved to be more a love-in than a debate, the party's annual conference in Bournemouth overwhelmingly backed the document, *Changing Britain for Good*. The document pledges a Liberal Democrat government to introduce (or Liberal Democrat negotiators in a hung parliament to bargain for):

- proportional representation for all elections;
- fixed-term parliaments of four years;
- replacement of the House of Lords by a directly elected senate of 100 members;
- home rule with an elected parliament for Scotland and Senedd for Wales;
- decentralisation to the Eng-

lish regions with elected assemblies;

- incorporation of the European convention on human rights into British law, leading to a British bill of rights;
- a freedom of information act extending right of access to official information; and
- the creation of a supreme court replacing the judicial committee of the House of Lords and the creation of a ministry of justice.

Opening a debate in which the common theme was that British democracy was no longer "something worth laying down in front of a tank for", Robert Macdonald, the party's home affairs spokesman, said: "We have put ourselves at the head of a movement for national democratic renewal." Constitutional reform, he said, was not simply desirable in itself by was "the necessary condition for success in governing Britain". The quality of government depended on the quality of democracy.

The bill of rights would

limit the abuse of power, fixing the term of parliaments would limit economic manipulation by those in government, debate would be more open and impartial as more official information became available to the citizen. Parliament, its work uncluttered by matter best decided at another level, would become less adversarial.

The Liberal Democrats are seeking to wrest constitutional questions, especially electoral reform, from the studies of political scientists and to persuade the electorate that they are related directly to everyday life. Yesterday, Peter Gold, candidate for Sheffield Hallam, was one of several to argue that the expensive disaster of the poll tax would never have occurred under a proportional representation voting system because 60 per cent had voted at the last election for parties opposed to it.

Gwyneth Jones (Hereford), a former Labour MP, regretted that Britain was no longer the guiding beacon to an otherwise totalitarian Europe that it had been in 1940 and insisted: "It is in decline because it is undemocratic".

Barbara Pearce (Leeds) said that previous governments had pushed and pulled every button and handle on the machine without bringing Britain to success. Now it was a matter of changing the machine.

Summing up, Sir David Steel, the former Liberal party leader, said that proportional representation would have solved the problem of accountability that had led to the poll tax folly. Calling for a freedom of information act, he recalled that in order to find out details about a plane crash in his constituency he had had to seek the information from America.

Britain, he said, was the most centralised, bureaucratic country in the West and he compared the "running and ruining" of Scotland by a "distant unrepresentative minority" to the relationship between the Soviet Union and its republics.



Political view: Baroness Sears keeping a watchful eye on proceedings at her party's Bournemouth conference

## Health authorities 'will regain control of trusts'

By JOHN WINDER

LIBERAL Democrats would cancel the second wave of self-governing health service trusts now in hand if they gained the power to do so at an early election. They would review the trusts already established, revise their membership and ultimately bring all trusts back under local health authority control.

The programme was outlined by the party president, Charles Kennedy, Commons health spokesman, in the debate on the health service.

He said that at the heart of the party's opposition to the government-manipulated reforms of the NHS was local democracy. "There is no public clamour for hospitals to become self-governing trusts. There is no democratic legitimacy to such an exercise."

The second wave of hospital trust applications would be cancelled immediately "the party had the power to do so after an election. Every trust

in the first wave would be re-examined and central to their approach would be democratic determination of the continuing status of trust facilities, hospital by hospital, and community by community.

There was a necessity for a pragmatic way forward because underfunding and ministerial hostility had together helped to create a great decline in morale in the service which reorganisations had sapped still further. The end point must be hospital trusts once again under health authority control.

A motion re-asserting that the most important function of the NHS was to provide health care on the basis of medical need, to all, free at the point of delivery, was moved by Shauna Bowles, candidate for Aylesbury. She said that "marking the trusts started with the name. Trust was a word to inspire confidence, but it concealed the truth that the trusts were corporations. They had shown the underfunding of the NHS because they had had to raise extra funds by selling assets."

The consumer was essentially reluctant. Nobody wanted to be ill and nobody wanted

to create a market in added-value illness. "There is no place for this kind of marketing in our health service. That would be a forced response to running the NHS as a collection of businesses."

Dr Paul Beatty, prospective candidate for Macclesfield, moved an amendment saying that trusts, while still in existence should be compelled to publish business plans and to measure their efficiency by the quality of their service as well as in cash terms.

Linda Siegle, candidate for North Dorset, proposed an amendment calling for repeal of the legislation setting up the trusts. She opposed the principle of the trusts which weakened the concept of the NHS.

The prospective candidate for Kincardine and Deeside where a by-election is in prospect if a general election is not called this year, Nicol Stephens, said that Michael Forsyth the Scottish health minister was trying to force an Aberdeen hospital, Foresthill to opt out despite strong local opposition in which the consultants had voted eighty-seven to two against and 90 per cent of GPs were opposed to the opting out.

The motion and the amendments were all agreed to.

## 'Free Croatia' demand

MISGIVINGS about a call for immediate recognition by EC states of Slovenia and Croatia as independent countries, expressed by some delegates, did not prevent the conference endorsing the call by a large majority.

Sir Russell Johnston, MP, the party's European affairs spokesman, said: "It is not for us to decide who should be free if they want to be free" and urged that the motion should be accepted.

Roger Walshe, prospective candidate for Sevenoaks, said

Yugoslavia report, page 9

## Members worried by energy tax plan

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

ENVIRONMENT

NERVOUSNESS that the party's commitment to an energy tax could lose votes in the rural areas that contain most of the seats the Liberal Democrats hope to gain surfaced during yesterday's environment debate.

The conference approved the green paper, *Costing the Earth*, that calls for the creation of an environmental protection agency, an independent department of the environment and the establishment of emission licences to create market-based incentives for industry to reduce pollution.

But the motion also committed the Liberal Democrats to "the imposition of taxation on pollution-causing and resource-depleting products starting as a first priority with energy".

The environment spokesman, Simon Hughes, said: "More of all you are used to is not a sustainable way forward" and said that it remained a policy objective to reduce the amount of petrol used in Britain. One way of doing so was to increase taxes on petrol and ensure that prices kept pace with inflation. It was policy, too, to encourage people not to use private vehicles wastefully.

Although Mr Hughes promised "it is not our policy to penalise necessary mobility" and confirmed that compensating measures would be introduced to ensure that account was taken of the transport needs of remote rural areas, candidates spoke up to complain that their opponents were exploiting the party's commitment.

Nick Harvey, candidate for North Devon, suggested that the policy had been designed by people who lived in cities,

## Lib Dems anxious about ICI future

Lord Hanson's ambitions towards ICI opened the way for some of Britain's most important research projects to move abroad. Peter Allen, prospective parliamentary candidate for Langbaurgh, told the conference during a debate on the threatened bid.

The conference agreed to call on the government to make clear that any takeover bid for ICI would be referred to the competition authorities and the potential impact on R & D would be taken into account.

## More help for ethnic groups

The party should campaign for greater participation by the ethnic minorities in government, local authority and other public body decision making, a motion carried at the end of the day's proceedings said.

The motion also called on the federal executive to find ways of increasing ethnic minority participation in the party. It was moved by Mike Harskin, candidate for Brent South, who said that Norman Tebbit's cricket test of national loyalty was much fairer than Britain's immigration laws. At present, the party was whiter than white and that too must change.

## Business today

The conference ends today with Paddy Ashdown's rallying speech. Earlier business is a motion on mandatory life sentences for murder followed by a debate on crime and policing policy.

## Student accommodation at Woolworths. (Well, we've got a nice pad going cheap.)



A4 Ruled Pad (160 leaves) 99p, 20 A4 Punched Pockets 99p, Twin Pack of Ring Binders £1.50, 4 Highlighter Pens 99p, Parker Jotter Ballpen - half-price, now £2.62.

WOOLWORTHS

## CONFERENCE DIARY

## Tidiness breaks out all over

By SHEILA GUNN

Whither the young Liberals? Where are the torn jeans, screaming T-shirts and anti-authoritarian behaviour that so enlivened the party conferences under Jeremy Thorpe and David Steel?

"We do not want reactionary politics, but constructive, pro-active politics. Things are not what they were 20 years ago. If we did anything to embarrass the party, it would be all over the papers for days," Sara Tustin, leader of the Young Liberal Democrats, said.

Certainly there are few pairs of jeans in sight — and most of them are covering middle-aged legs. True there is a sprinkling of YLD T-shirts, sporting the slogan "I'd rather be a dead parrot than a Tory", but the smartly suited Miss Tustin said: "There is a generation change in the way young people dress, something that came out of the Yuppie revolution. If I was wearing a scruffy T-shirt and rolled up jeans, people would say 'ugh'. We do not dress down."

The conference edition of *Free Radical*, the youth wing's newsletter, carries articles headlined "We oppose a ministry for women", "Uncle Sam's not so bad" and "How to run a committee meeting". The pack for local branches offers tips, for instance, on "how to get money".

Given such an outbreak of earnest-



Hughes: one exception to the new love of restraint

ness, Paddy Ashdown has privately counselled some of the younger members this week to display a little more free spirit; after all he is relying on capturing the first-time voters who have grown up under Margaret Thatcher. Miss Tustin, the party's candidate in Enfield North, reports a respectable rise in youth membership and unqualified praise for the

Ashdown leadership. A few jaundiced hacks have tried to stir up a rebellion but with no sign of success.

Then into view comes a figure clad in fluorescent lime green T-shirt and multi-coloured Bermuda shorts, wheeling a bike. But it is only one of the oldest Young Liberals in Bournemouth, the party's environment spokesman, Simon Hughes, soon to reach the age of 40, and bound for the latest photo opportunity.

One man praying for John Major to call a November election is Paul Jacobs, the Lib Dems' chief by-election tactician.

Mr Jacobs broke a parliamentary record when masterminding two successive by-election victories for the party in Eastbourne and Ribbles Valley. He has now been made Nicol Stephens' agent in Kincardine & Deeside following the death of the Tory MP, Allick Buchanan-Smith. After wreaking havoc in two safe Tory seats, a by-election campaign to overturn a 2,063 majority in Scotland with one of the party's best candidates should seem like a holiday.

Dr Alex Goldie, the Lib Dems' candidate in Dulwich, declared an interest of sorts when speaking at the conference on Lord Hanson's interest in ICI. The day he received the demand for the conference fee, his dividend from ICI arrived.





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# Caesarean baby gets new heart at birth

FROM SAM KLEY IN NAIROBI

be "bizarre to pick Kenya as having a particularly bad record on human rights". He said the country would find Kenyan answers to its own problems.

Mr Hurd said he saw a current of democracy flowing through the world. Britain would continue to make its support for democratisation known to the Kenyan government, both publicly and privately. The Foreign Office and the Overseas Development Agency are taking an increasingly robust line with countries which fail to meet their criteria of respect for human rights and "good governance".

But Mr Hurd insisted that the £44 million in aid supplied

The Kenyan press is notorious for its obsequious coverage of Mr Moi's activities and its trepidation over publishing the views of his political opponents. But Mr Hurd said he had urged upon the president the idea that free debate was a sign of strength in a country and not weakness. He also insisted that Kenyans must be given an effective say in the choice of their government. The British tactic would be to help find a method to do this which would be most effective in Kenya.

Mr Hurd should say the same thing about human rights and democracy in Kenya as he does in Moscow, China or South Africa," he said.

**Gun attack:** Hours before Mr Hurd's arrival, unknown gunmen opened fire on the car of one of the leading advocates of political change in Kenya. Raila Odinga, the son of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, the former vice-president, was slightly injured. (Reuters)

**Leading article, page 17**

**Beyond help:** Magda Janus, a rescuer, examining a dead pilot whale, one of nine which perished when 27 beached at Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Rescuers towed the survivors back to sea, but it was feared that they would also die

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

market shopping bags. Earlier, a white woman died from bullet wounds after a lone gunman held up her car on a main road near the Phola Park squatter camp close to Tokozza. She was the first white victim of the current violence. Her two companions were seriously wounded. Late yesterday, hundreds of police and troops ringed the squatter camp where angry, armed residents were preparing for a house-to-house search.

There were indications yesterday that the violence was spreading to other areas. Police said three commuter trains from Cape Town to the Langa township were set ablaze on Tuesday night.

Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the African National Congress, said: "It is increasingly clear that the purpose of this horrific violence is to create a climate in which the signing of the peace accord appears futile." The accord, between the government, the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party, is due to be signed on Saturday. The ANC and Inkatha have said they are committed to it.

A grenade was huried into a bus driving through the township. It was then raked with semi-automatic gunfire as the driver lost control and the vehicle crashed into a hostel. Four people were reported dead and dozens injured. AK47 cartridge cases collected at the scene filled two super-

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG takes a tentative step towards democracy this weekend as voters go to the polls in the first direct elections to the legislature in the colony's 150-year history.

Although more cautious forecasters expect a turnout of between 50 and 60 per cent, some optimists predict that up to 70 per cent of those eligible will vote on Sunday to elect representatives to the legislative council in nine regional districts. In a show of enthusiasm which belies claims that Hong Kong people

are not ready for democracy, 54 candidates will be vying for just 18 of the council's 60 seats.

Opinion polls have consistently shown a clear lead for liberal groups. The United Democrats of Hong Kong, led by Martin Lee and allied parties, are expected to take at least 12 seats.

But today, in a less publicised poll, a relatively small group of people will vote for more than a third of the legislature, yielding a power which critics say is out of

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

MARGARET Thatcher arrived in Peking yesterday amid some mystery. Neither her purpose nor her itinerary were clear, and even Jiang Zemin, the Communist party leader, was puzzled.

That did not prevent the Communist government from giving her a red carpet welcome. As she emerged from her limousine to meet the head of the navy in the Hall of

nored the one journalist who attempted to break through the cordon of minders.

She was ostensibly invited by the semi-governmental foreign affairs institute, but it is not apparent whether Mrs. Thatcher or Peking made the first move. Nor is it clear whether her visit to Peking is simply nostalgic or if she is polishing her image as international stateswoman.

Heard on the party in the road for Harmony and Happiness. Liu said that the Chinese government still stands for the Four Principles of Foreign Affairs. Mrs Thatcher's hosts here said: "This is very special. Usually the red carpet is reserved for heads of state or government." Perhaps they had not heard her earlier observation that, with the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, a "new dawn of democracy" would break in the darkest corners of "reviled."

Following closely in John Major's footsteps, Mrs Thatcher has been holding talks with the same leaders he spoke to last week: Li Peng, the prime minister, Zhao Ziyang, the foreign minister, and Mr Jiang, general secretary of the party. Today, she arrives in Hong Kong.

her visit to Peking has been shrouded in secrecy, and yesterday no one seemed to know why she was here at all. The British embassy says the visit is nothing to do with them. Mrs Thatcher asked that no press conferences or interviews be permitted, and le-

## deflects senators'

**Pittsburgh** — Surgeons saved Sarah Kelton's life before it really began when they delivered her by caesarean section in order to give her a heart transplant.

Sarah, born at 35 weeks, five week prematurely, is the youngest patient ever to receive a new heart, according to the surgeons who performed the operation at Pittsburgh children's hospital. A spokesman for the hospital said that Sarah was in a critical condition after the operation, but her doctors believed it had gone well and she was optimistic about her prospects for recovery.

The operation became necessary when it was discovered at 17 weeks that Sarah suffered from hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a rare condition in which her heart was formed with only two chambers rather than the normal four.

## Cree victory

**Montreal** — Quebec's Crete Indians won an important victory when a federal court in Ottawa ruled that the Canadian government must conduct an environmental review of any new power projects on their ancestral land. The ruling dealt a fresh blow to the Great Whale river hydroelectric scheme. (Reuters)

## Manila debate

**Manila** — The Philippines senate began debating whether to renew the United States military bases treaty or end nearly 100 years of American military presence. But with the majority of senators against renewal, President Aquino's "people power" march on Tuesday in favour of renewal may have failed.

## Floods kill 65

**Dhaka** — At least 65 people have died and 250,000 been made homeless in floods sweeping northeastern Bangladesh. The government says worse is to come. A reporter who flew over the region said that many villages looked like islands with many people on rooftops. (Reuter)

## Judge objection

**West Palm Beach** — Prosecutors in the William Kennedy Smith rape case have gone ahead with asking the Florida appeals court to replace the trial judge, accusing her of "bias, prejudice and other impropriety." Judge Mary Lupo earlier declined their request to remove herself from the case. (Reuter)

## Tiger base falls

**Colombo** — Sri Lankan troops have captured a rebel base in the deep jungle of northeast Sri Lanka around Mullaitivu. They overran the camp after two weeks of fierce fighting in which hundreds of guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were reportedly killed, a military spokesman said. (Reuters)

## Touching base

Tokyo — The American aircraft carrier, Independence, entered its new home port at the US naval base at Yokosuka, Japan, succeeding the decommissioned Midway. Several hundred people demonstrated nearby against the deployment of the ship, which they suspected of carrying nuclear weapons. (AFP)

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

THE ornate Senate Caucus Room hosted the hearings on the *Titanic*, Pearl Harbor, Vietnam, Watergate and the Iran-Contra affair. This week it is seeing the inquisition of Clarence Thomas, the conservative who aspires to become the Supreme Court's 106th justice and its second black.

The outcome will determine the court's political centre of gravity well into the next century. But for now it is the pure theatre that has Americans rivetted to the televised proceedings — the spectacle of the self-made son of a penniless Georgia sharecropper, who opposes positive discrimination, jousting with a row of white Democrats.

As the hearing's second day opened yesterday, the competing strategies were obvious. Judge Thomas's opponents are determined to use his controversial past statements to portray him as well out of the mainstream on the momentous issues of the day. Mr. Thomas is assiduously disowning or softening that record while exploiting his compelling personal story.

He opened with a moving account of his rise from grinding poverty "in an era of blatant segregation and overt

**Happy family:** Judge Clarence Thomas with, from left, his wife Virginia, mother Leola, and sister Emma Mae after the start of the Senate hearing in Washington

The senators contended that Mr Thomas supported a "natural law" separate from constitutional law. That could include an inalienable right to life, for foetuses, and the economic right of individuals to enter into contracts for labour, goods and property regardless of a raft of government employment rules.

Mr Thomas fought off repeated questions about his

views on abortion. He dismissed his past comments on natural law as the musings of a "part-time political theorist seeking to promote civil rights" and irrelevant to constitutional adjudication. He repudiated a fellow conservative's article describing abortion as a violation of natural law, saying his 1987 praise of it had been a "throw-away line" designed to flatter the author.

Of the 14-man committee, five Republicans strongly sup-

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## UN chief makes progress in Iran talks on hostages

From HANNS NEUBOURG in TEHRAN

JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, appeared yesterday in Tehran in efforts to negotiate the release of Western hostages as Israel freed 51 Arab prisoners who had been demanded by pro-Iranian groups.

While he met senior Iranian officials, the Israeli military said the Arab prisoners had been freed in recognition of his attempts to secure a deal that would include the 11 Western hostages. Shia Muslim radicals had insisted that no more Western hostages would be freed until Israel released some of the Arab prisoners in south Lebanon and Israel. Those released did not include Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, a leader of the Shia group Hezbollah, kidnapped by Israel in 1989.

Israel said it had freed the 51 Arab prisoners held by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army after receiving confirmation that an Israeli serviceman missing in Lebanon was dead. The Israeli military communiqué said that the bodies of nine Arab guerrillas had also been returned to Lebanon.

The moves could help build confidence in Israeli willingness to participate in a swap involving the Western hostages, captured Arab guerrillas

and seven missing Israeli servicemen. Israel has sought proof of the whereabouts of the servicemen or their remains. General Antoine Lahd, the commander of the South Lebanon Army told the Voice of South Lebanon radio: "We took this initiative for humanitarian reasons and as proof of our willingness to make a gesture, hoping that such an initiative will get a response from the parties involved."

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's two-day visit included talks with President Rafsanjani. The UN chief also planned to meet families of Iranians missing in Lebanon.

After arriving in Tehran on Tuesday, the secretary-general said that his visit to Iran would deal primarily with issues related to the UN ceasefire resolution that ended the 1980-8 Iran-Iraq war, and other regional issues. But Señor Pérez de Cuéllar also said that if Iranian officials wanted to raise the hostage problem he would be "only too happy to listen". He added: "The Iranians are helping me, but they do not hold the key."

The Western hostages include five Americans, three Britons, two Germans and an Italian. The longest-held is Terry Anderson, the American chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated

Press news agency, who was kidnapped in March 1985.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency in Iran said that Señor Pérez de Cuéllar had thanked Tehran for previous efforts to free the Western hostages. "He reiterated that different groups are involved in the hostage issue and that the problem must be solved through these groups," the agency said.

In a statement in Paris on Monday, the secretary-general said he would seek Iranian help in freeing the hostages. "By that, I don't wish to say that the Iranians are responsible, but even so they have influences which could be useful for me in trying to resolve the problem of the Western hostages, as well as the detainees held in south Lebanon and missing people on the Israeli side," he said. (AP)

Israeli handover, page 1

## Tyson denies rape charge

Indianapolis — Mike Tyson arrived in Indianapolis from Las Vegas yesterday for a court appearance and claiming he was innocent of rape.

At the airport, Mr Tyson said the allegation of rape and his indictment on Monday by a Marion County grand jury had "dramatically affected my life". But he added: "I'm not dwelling on it." He wanted to get on with preparations for his fight with Evander Holyfield, the heavyweight champion, scheduled for November 8 in Las Vegas. The bout's promoters expect it to go ahead. He signed autographs and thanked his fans. Mr Tyson was later released on \$30,000 (£17,000) bail.

Don King, his promoter, said: "I know that Mike is innocent, and I know we'll win this one." It has been alleged that Mr Tyson raped a participant in a beauty contest after she rejected his advances. (AP)



Going the distance: Tyson arrives at Marion County court in Indianapolis yesterday

## Bush raises stakes in clash with Israel

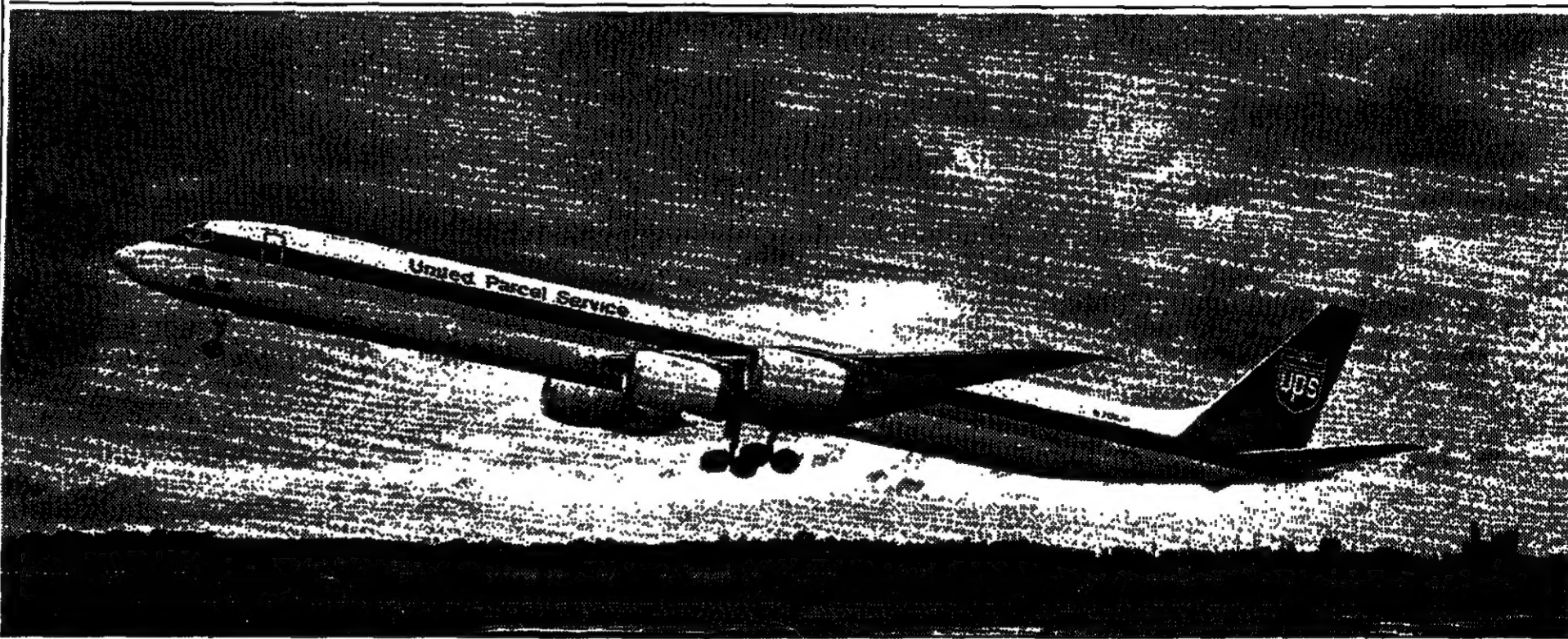
From MARTIN FLETCHER in WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday raised the stakes in Washington's confrontation with Israel. He denied Israeli newspaper reports that America had promised to give Israel \$10 billion (£5.8 billion) in loan guarantees to help settle Soviet emigres.

Mr Bush used a photo-call with congressmen to point out that he had promised only that the Israeli request should be considered. "We are not backing off from... this concept of helping, but I am not committed to any numbers and never have been," he insisted. The Israeli stories were "very misleading".

Israel is pressing congress for immediate consideration of its loan guarantees request, but Mr Bush has called for a 120-day delay so that the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories does not undermine October's planned Arab-Israeli peace conference. He is said to be determined that the guarantees should be made conditional on a freeze in settlement activity.

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## Unity of Arabs remains mirage

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER in CAIRO

A BITTER meeting of the 21-member council of the Arab League in Cairo has failed to heal deep divisions in the Arab world in the run-up to next month's proposed Middle East peace conference.

Angry exchanges between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi foreign ministers demonstrated that the bitter legacy of the Gulf war is far from being forgotten. Although the session was held behind closed doors, it is known that Ahmad Hussein al-Khodair, the Iraqi foreign minister, thumped his fist on the table and demanded to be heard after his Kuwaiti counterpart accused Baghdad of delaying settling their common border, of still showing aggressive intentions, and of continuing to hold thousands of Kuwaitis.

When allowed to speak later, Mr al-Khodair dismissed the Kuwaiti claims and accused the emirate of "fostering a new imperialism through shady agreements", a reference to the new ten-year defence pact with America.

Separate bitter divisions between former allies Egypt and Jordan sabotaged much-heralded plans for a meeting between Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to coordinate policy towards Israel. Such is the tension between

Egypt and Jordan, sparked by the Gulf conflict, that the normally moderate *Egyptian Gazette* yesterday carried a vicious cartoon of King Hussein writing Jordan's recently published "White Book" on the Gulf with a snake instead of a pen. The volume has been labelled as "naked lies" by the Egyptian government, which yesterday imposed new visa restrictions on Jordanians.

"This meeting has only made the goal of Arab unity look more elusive than ever," commented one Arab diplomat. Esmet Abdel-Meguid, the recently appointed secretary-general of the league and Egypt's former foreign minister, said that inter-Arab divisions were now so deep that they could cause fresh violence.

● Strasbourg: King Hussein yesterday told the European parliament of the "forces of extremism and darkness" waiting to throw the Middle East into turmoil if a peace conference for the region does not start soon (Tom Walker writes).

But he indicated that Palestinians coming to a conference as part of a joint Jordanian delegation was not his favoured option. He also intimated that east Jerusalem should remain in Israel.

## Beirut's rough road to a flat

From ADAM KELLNER in BEIRUT

FLAT-HUNTING is generally a tedious business anywhere, but in Beirut it is an activity involving variables found nowhere else. Apart from the large chunks missing from many buildings after 16 years of civil war, there is much else to consider.

To embark on a property search, forget the realm of estate agents. Everything is done by word of mouth and, since doing deals is Lebanon's national sport, it is usually a communal event, with perhaps four people joining in, each with inside knowledge about how they might save you money.

The most prosaic things cannot be taken for granted. A flat may be in every way magnificent, but have no water because bombs have shattered the pipe-work, often causing drinking water and sewage to intermingle.

Power cuts are part of west Beirut's lifestyle, with the government providing electricity for only about six hours a day. Otherwise, power is purchased from the motor mafia, the owners of generators about the size of shipping containers that emit diesel smoke and

a throaty roar as power is distributed through a spaghetti-skein of cables.

Security must also be considered. Beyond aspects of lifestyle, this comes down to avoiding isolated dwellings and places that become spooky at night in a city bereft of street lights. Although wartime road-blocks have been dismantled, sectarian divides remain, and Beirutis have clear lines of communal identity.

All of these pitfalls are surmountable. The real obstacle is price. The explanation of what this will be is usually geopolitical: the Soviet coup attempt, with all its implications for Middle East peace, the recent brief abduction of a French aid worker, the flawed belief that Western nations are poised to send back hordes of diplomats armed with large rent subsidies.

Commercial instincts, of course, are the deeper reason for the rents being asked, which often involve wistful memories of the 1975 prewar price added to 16 years of inflation to arrive at a figure more suited to Tokyo or New York than a war-racked city with an uncertain future.



## Bush bows to pressure in granting Soviet aid

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration has altered its stand on aid to the Soviet Union because of pressure not only from the Europeans but also from American Democrats. James Baker, US Secretary of State, indicated Moscow had previously depended on US aid for implementing market reforms, it would now be enough for the Kremlin and the republics to agree a market reform plan for aid to be given.

The move highlights the difficulty for the White House in the aftermath of the "Russian revolution". President Bush has asked officials for a lengthy reassessment of the United States' international role and responsibilities, described as the most far-reaching since 1945. But, while the planners produce paper mountains, the pace of politics everywhere accelerates.

On Tuesday, before an audience at the Washington Institute of International Economics, Richard Gephardt, the House Democrat leader, accused the president of losing the "contests of the imagination" by failing to lead either the American people or America's friends abroad. Mr Gephardt taunted Mr Bush by

recalling how President Truman backed the Marshall Plan even though most American voters at the time begrudged the money being spent. He drew blood with his call for the administration to "stop mumbling clichés about not writing cheques".

President Bush has hitherto been happy with his popularity and his clichés. He has cheerfully allowed John Major and others to take the lead. But Mr Baker's comments show that there is a limit to how far the United States is prepared to lag behind. All eyes now are on the drafts of Mr Bush's speech to the UN next week.

The White House wants to buy thinking-space if it can. The time-frames for the new American policy are three weeks, three months and 30 years, officials say. The studies cover nuclear deterrence and conventional forces. Guarantees and garrisons are equally under the spotlight.

The State Department has already reassessed current agreements. Some officials argued for the scrapping of the treaty on conventional forces in Europe (CFE), signed with an alliance that no longer exists and covering areas whose governance has been transformed. Mr Baker whose

## Protests grow in Georgia

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

WITH ethnic fighting raging in the north of Georgia and increasing prospects of armed clashes in Tbilisi, the capital, radical and centrist opposition parties yesterday demanded the immediate resignation of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the republic's president.

The national guard, Georgia's fledgling army, has split ominously between soldiers loyal to Mr Gamsakhurdia and forces headed by Tengiz Kentovani, the guard's commander, which have threatened to intervene from their base outside the capital if the president moves against the opposition.

More than 10,000 opposition supporters gathered in Tbilisi for a fresh demonstration last night as resentment grew over Mr Gamsakhurdia's authoritarian style and his alleged cowardice during the August coup. The two main radical opposition groups, the National Democratic party and the National Independence party, were joined yesterday by 24 other political groups, ranging from the Greens to the middle-of-the-road Popular Front, in calling for him to step down.

A nuclear doctrine for the new world order is still in embryo. Mr Cheney has raised the prospect of further extending nuclear guarantees to reassure the new democracies and discourage them from developing nuclear weapons.

The United States will continue to wish a "security mix" for Europe that includes both conventional and nuclear guarantees. Although American NATO forces are increasingly unpopular among the electorate, politicians recognise that they are a vital protector of America's diplomatic interests.

Before Mr Baker left for Moscow, he set out five principles for his talks, peaceful adoption of democratic values, acceptance of existing internal and external borders, change through orderly processes, respect for human rights and commitment to treaties. That rubric, enhanced with a little more economic leadership, should be enough over the next few weeks. Meanwhile, the hard work continues over America's most important leadership role, if and when these principles are broken.

Soviet concessions, page 1



Seat of power: children resting on a toppled statue of Stalin in a Moscow park yesterday. This and other fallen images have fast become tourist attractions

## Cold wind from the east threatens Swedish left

SWEDEN is bracing itself against what many describe as a wave of revolution from the east. Public opinion polls are predicting an historic defeat for the ruling socialists in general elections on Sunday.

One politician who anticipates with some glee the demise of the Nordic model of social democratic government here is Ian Wachtmeister, co-founder of the fledgling New Democracy party, a populist protest movement reminiscent of the Progress parties of Denmark and Norway that have gained prominence, and parliamentary seats, in recent years.

Mr Wachtmeister yesterday predicted that his party would gain 10 per cent of the vote — the opinion polls forecast 6 per cent — for 35 seats in the 349-member Riksdag.

"I do not think we could have done this as recently as the last election in 1988," Mr Wachtmeister said. "Winds of change are blowing over our part of the world. These dramatic events, the fall of socialism and communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, have to have an impact on Sweden."

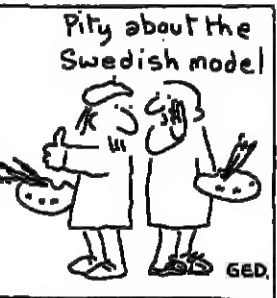
Mr Wachtmeister's campaign has drawn large crowds, attracted by a mix of humour and anti-establishment invective. Abroad, the party has captured headlines with its insistence that crippling taxes and restrictions on restaurant meals and alcohol should be abolished in order to encourage Swedes to go out and enjoy themselves more often. But the party's overall platform is a detailed plan for a Thatcher-style overhaul of the system.

If the polls are correct, Sweden's new government will almost certainly comprise a Conservative coalition, for only the second time in almost 60 years, led by Carl Bildt.

Nordic social democracy could be blown away in the wake of communism's fall, says Tony Samstag from Stockholm

leader of the Moderate party. Mr Bildt's is not a radical style of conservatism; but the intensity of his dislike for the Social Democratic policies of Ingvar Carlsson, the prime minister, make fundamental changes inevitable, assuming the coalition survives.

Barely a fortnight ago, it was the Nordic governments that precipitated the flurry of diplomatic recognition for the Baltic republics, giving rise to speculation that Nordic-style socialism might be on the



international offensive. That offensive was not quite what it seemed, however. Perhaps the most telling comments came from the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs "Nordic co-operation is full of frivolous suggestions," snapped a spokesman. Referring to a proposal by Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, that the Baltic states become members of the Nordic Council, he added: "This sort of thing is a perennial headache."

Inspired by encouraging remarks from the east — most recently when President Gorbachev was reported, shortly after the failed coup, to have described himself as "a Swedish-style social democrat", and when Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister, subsequently announced that he is to visit Norway in October in order to discuss the formation of a Russian social democratic party — the Nordics had been exultant at the notion that their style of government might be the wave of the future in the east.

In theory, Nordic social democracy is something of a half-way house between communist socialism and a free-market economy. The Nordic model offers a highly developed social security apparatus which includes a strong private sector. The system presupposes a virtually omnipotent, albeit elected, central government, which delegates many of its powers to local and regional authorities and to the civil service. It tends to be very expensive to run.

But the democratic half of the Nordic formula has always posed difficulties. The socialist bureaucracy here, as in the east, seems to have an in-built tendency towards authoritarianism, despite the theoretical freedom of its subjects to change the system. Most outsiders who settle in the Nordic region feel estranged from a society that seems safe and comfortable but also cheerless, conformist and almost aggressively provincial.

Critics of the system are delighted that events in Sweden and in Norway, where municipal elections on Monday resulted in the worst results for the dominant Labour Party since the second world war, may signal the end for this inoffensive but depressing brand of socialism.

## Kohl takes Moscow begging bowl to Washington

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, carried President Gorbachev's begging bowl with him when he flew to America last night to continue Bonn's offensive for "swift and extensive aid" to develop democracy and a free market economy in the new Soviet Union.

He left after meeting Aleksandr Yakovlev, one of Mr Gorbachev's closest advisers, who arrived in Bonn with a long shopping list of humanitarian aid needed to stave off hardship in the winter ahead. Mr Yakovlev also delivered a warning that, without comprehensive help, there was a real danger of another, more successful, coup.

The chancellor promised a comprehensive national initiative to send humanitarian aid again this winter. Last year Germany sent food and emergency help to the Soviet Union worth DM1 billion (£340 million) in government and private donations and the chancellor hopes at least to match that figure.

However, he was much less forthcoming about sending economic aid. Germany was contributing more than its fair share of what was now being sent to the Soviet Union, he said. Although he was ready to join a combined international effort, he said that, before the West could agree to send help, it was essential that the share-out of the different responsibilities between the Soviet Union and the newly independent republics was settled.

He emphasised, too, that work had to start quickly on a comprehensive economic reform process. Nevertheless, an urgent plea to help the Soviet

Union will be made by Germany in Dresden next weekend at successive meetings of officials from the group of seven industrialised democracies (G-7) and of the G-10 (G-7 plus The Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland) to consider how to respond to changes in the Soviet Union since the London economic summit two months ago.

This fund-raising campaign is a central part of Herr Kohl's strategy to recapture the prestige and political support which he and his Christian Democrats have lost in the 11 months since unification. In that time Germany has found itself sidelined in big world events. The unified nation did not live up to expectations — and fears — that it would become a dominant power. Instead, the country mired in on itself, becoming pre-occupied with internal economic problems.

The chancellor had to buy Germany's seat at the top table of world affairs by raising extra taxes for massive contributions to the Gulf war costs and to pay for 56 per cent of all Western aid to the Soviet Union. The result has been a huge swing away from his party, particularly in the east. But, amid the political gloom, Herr Kohl has at last had some good economic news from the east. Jürgen Möllemann, his economics minister, has forecast that a growth rate in the east of 10 per cent next year is "absolutely realistic", enabling Herr Kohl to tell a regular meeting of unions and employers that the decline in eastern Germany's economy since unification is now bottoming out.

Cuba pullout, page 1

## US seeks pledge on Cuba spy station

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has given a higher figure, 11,000, for Soviet military personnel in Cuba than Western estimates. According to American sources, Moscow has maintained between 5,000 and 10,000 military personnel there since it rushed aid to Cuba in 1961 in the aftermath of the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion by CIA-backed exiles.

The Soviet force is believed by the Americans to include 1,200 advisers, a combat brigade of 2,600 motorised infantry troops and about 2,000 signals technicians. The signals personnel operate a listening post which monitors telecommunications in America, only 90 miles away. The Americans believe that the intelligence gathered there is not necessarily shared with Havana and are seeking assurances from Moscow that the equipment will be removed.

Though the Soviet troops are rarely seen in the capital or other towns, their presence has been regarded by President Castro as vital evidence of Moscow's commitment to the defence of their country from American invasion, still depicted by propaganda as an imminent possibility. The Cuban armed forces follow the Soviet model, complete with political officers attached to all units. Thousands of Cuban officers have been trained in the Soviet Union, and Soviet advisers worked with Cuban troops in the battlefields of Africa during the late 1970s and 1980s. The Americans expect some level of continuing Soviet military assistance to Havana if only because its forces are completely dependent on Soviet hardware.

The Soviet troop departure is unlikely to soften Dr Castro's resolve to resist any change in his Communist regime. Threatened by an end to Soviet oil supplies, which provide more than 80 per cent of the island's energy, the Cuban authorities have been pursuing alternative sources of fuel for military vehicles. There has even been defiant talk of reverting to horses.

According to the CIA, Soviet aid for Cuba in 1990 was \$3.5 billion (about \$2 billion), including a \$2.2 billion trade subsidy, \$600 million in trade credits and \$700 million in direct aid. But academics believe that those figures are inflated.

Despite the extraordinary hardships now being inflicted on the Cubans by the withdrawal of Soviet subsidy, diplomats and academics believe the Castro government will be able to resist change for some time. Last week, *Granma*, the official newspaper, declared: "Whatever happens in the Soviet Union, we will not depart from the path we have chosen." However, it added: "It is impossible to deny how difficult and bitter these moments are, but we are prepared for the worst."

## Monitors press doggedly on with near-hopeless task

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

THE men in white cruise in outside trucks which resemble ice-cream vans. The blinding cleanliness of their shirts, trousers and even shoes make them resemble the crew of a class cruise ship. They speak in a babble of Euro-tongues but, aware of the sensitivity of their task, they prefer not to speak much at all.

They are the 75-strong team of observers from all 12 European Community countries and Canada, Sweden, Poland and Czechoslovakia who are in Yugoslavia facing the thankless task of monitoring a ceasefire which exists only on paper. They are drawn from the diplomatic and civil services of their countries. Their task of helping to uphold the centrally agreed, grudging peace is near-hopeless in a conflict where local snipers and army headquarters often wage violence autonomously.

Presently headed by Joop van der Valk, a Dutch diplomat, the monitors are on the horns of a permanent dilemma. They are concerned about their own safety, but the very areas where their presence is most needed are those where stray bullets fly most randomly. While most governments have obviously spared women from the fray, Greece and Sweden have supplied a female monitor each.

The monitors have been watching the army's uneventful withdrawal from Slovenia,

but began their work in Croatia on Monday by venturing out of the safety of Zagreb, the capital, to visit Osijek in war-torn eastern Slavonia. The officials, whose safe passage had been guaranteed by all sides in the conflict, reported it to be calm. Next day, however, the city suffered some of the worst pounding by Serbian forces so far.

Yesterday, six monitors held talks in the city with the Serb, Croatian and army factions before deciding whether or not to pull out of the area. "Our mere presence is obviously not enough to stop the



violence," one observer said yesterday. "We can only kickstart local agreements. In the end it comes down to the will of both sides. We have no illusions about our power."

Zvonimir Separevic, the Croat foreign minister, yesterday made it clear that he did not overestimate the European peace effort either, saying: "We blame them for being slow and ineffective."

Zagreb believes that Europe is fiddling with diplomatic and monitoring measures

while Croatia burns and has called on the community to recognise Serbia and the army as an aggressor and for the political and economic isolation of Belgrade. "The EC cannot pretend not to see the aggression committed on and the devastation of Croatian territory," Mr Separevic said. "People are being killed, people are suffering. Under these conditions, a peace conference is an illusion."

But the observers continue doggedly. One diplomat said: "As far as the present EC stance on Croatia is concerned, the only alternative to our having monitors in the area is not to have them and thus admit that the situation is hopeless. That would not be very constructive either."

Most have resigned themselves to simply establishing local communication channels between the army, Serbian guerrillas and Croatian forces for such time as the parties will feel ready to use them. They can at least take comfort in a minor breakthrough. Milan Babic, the militant leader of the self-declared Serbian autonomous region of Krajina in southern Croatia, pledged on Tuesday night that he would order his unpredictable irregular forces not to shoot first. The monitors have greeted the spirit of the declaration, but said they were still considering the advisability of a trip to the wild south.

## Lies as damaging as bombs

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE IN OSJEK

YUGOSLAVIA'S road to hell is paved with good intentions. The earthquake now beginning to surface in the Balkans is already throwing up plumes of disinformation, rumour and speculation that are feeding the wider fears of an already paranoid population in Serbia and Croatia.

Watching the battle between the more extreme factions is like seeing tectonic plates of communism and fascism grinding against one another in a world that is suddenly no longer big enough for both of them. And the men in white coats — the European Community's cease-fire monitors — who have come to try to put a straight jacket on the more trigger-happy members of Yugoslav society, are finding that fact is scarce on the frontlines.

Five observers of the truce, that is a war by any other name, were beginning to find their way around Osijek this week. A town besieged not so much by Serb guerrillas as by rampant rumour. One report that is likely to have reached the observers is that both Serb and Croat forces in the area have one thing in common — they are said to have laid large numbers of mines, and then lost their minefield maps!

Then after a noisy night of intermittent gunfire and two mortar attacks in the morning, reports ricocheted around town that dozens of infants in a kindergarten had perished in the raids. It later transpired that the nursery had been



Footsore: a Croat soldier tending his blistered feet

closed for some time. Later still, a Croat National Guardsman was said to have exhibited unexploded 181m shells in the town square. These shells were in such pristine condition that one witness to the display said: "He must have caught them in his hands as they were fired on the square."

But the strongest case against the disinformation campaign is the town itself and the image that has been nurtured of a community besieged, bloody, but unbowed. Serb guerrillas are trying to isolate the eastern Slavonia region, with Osijek currently the focus of that fight and the road from Belgrade does become eerily empty near the Serbian border with Croatia.

Numerous roadblocks and checkpoints bear witness to

the undeclared civil war, but within 40 miles of Osijek dozens of lorries were to be seen converging on the town on Tuesday, apparently having approached it by diverting from the Belgrade-Zagreb highway until the last few miles into town.

Osijek itself still basks in its architectural glory with 18th and 19th century buildings boasting well kept mouldings and lining impressive streets into the square. The outward signs of fighting in the town centre were slight: a very few shattered windows and a couple of small shell holes near the town hall. It is nothing even remotely like the scene in and around Timisoara, say, during the revolution in neighbouring Romania nearly two years ago.

The signs of paranoia are more evident. Many shops have been sand-bagged, and windows taped to prevent shards of glass flying in future mortar raids. There is little doubt that night-time shooting and shell attacks on the Croatian town by Serb guerrillas has killed civilians and driven many to evacuate their children and seek nocturnal shelter. The Serbs hope that fear can drive the Croats from town so they may then claim it as their own.

The townspeople are undoubtedly suffering. But the ceasefire monitors and others striving for peace in Yugoslavia may find that their biggest enemy is not dodging mortars, but stepping around the muck being so liberally raked in this dirty war.

## EC must contain Yugoslav conflict

By ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community starts in earnest today to seek peace in Yugoslavia, but the diplomats have yet to work out how to prevent The Hague conference from degenerating into a dialogue of the deaf — deafened by the nightly artillery fire in Croatia.

There is great pressure on the peace conference, chaired by Lord Carrington, to produce results quickly. This, as one participating diplomat put it yesterday, is not August 1914, since Europe is not locked into military blocs, but there is an increasing risk that the Serbo-Croatian war will spread to Bosnia and that the Albanians in Kosovo will seize the moment to rise against the Serbs. Anyone who has visited Kosovo recently knows that this is not a fanciful scenario.

The Serbs have turned the nominally autonomous province into a virtual police state. If Kosovo cracked, there would be the prospect of a full-scale Balkan conflict with Albania coming to the aid of its cousins in Kosovo, Greece and Bulgaria perhaps sucked in because of claims on Macedonia, and Hungary ready to help the Hungarian minority in Vojvodina.

The second factor is that the EC, with The Netherlands at the head, has invested considerable effort in solving the Yugoslav riddle. Failure would be a blow to the prestige of the community and would

open serious wounds on the continent. The conflict makes a nonsense of the so called hexagonal group — Italy, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia — which was supposed to provide an oasis of European stability. The collapse of multilateral initiatives would allow Germany and perhaps others to go ahead and recognise the independence of Slovenia and Croatia.

Violence then has to be contained as fast as possible, and a blueprint agreed. Last Saturday's declaration — that internal borders cannot be changed by force — puts Serbia and the Serbian-led army squarely in the wrong. But neither Stipe Mesic, the Yugoslav president and technically commander in chief, nor the EC have been able to order the troops back to barracks. The reason is simple: if they do then the Croat national guard will counter-attack to try to reclaim the one-third of Croatian territory that has been lost this summer.

That seems like an impasse, but it is not an insoluble dilemma. The key is to provide credible guarantees to all sides. The Croatian national guard is exhausted and the army has already achieved most of the territorial gains it needs for a "greater Serbia". The main aim of the peace conference must be to achieve credible alternatives to this "greater Serbia" plan.



# Who gets the hangover when parents drink?



More in common than just talent: Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli shared huge success on stage, record and film, and a dependency on drink and drugs

Virginia Ironside cannot remember when she first realised her mother drank too much. What she does remember is the terrible atmosphere that hung about the house every time her mother was going out to a party, the whispered rows and dreadful silences. Her father always knew what was going to happen. Her mother would go to a party and start drinking and would have flirted with every man in the room by the time he could drag her away.

Jane Ironside was a fashion guru of the 1960s, but she was also an alcoholic. Her problem caused the break-up of her marriage when her daughter, a novelist and agony aunt columnist for the *Sunday Mirror*, was 14.

"When she got out of control she just couldn't stop," Ms Ironside says. "It got really bad when I was a teenager. I lived with my father but I would go to see her for Sunday lunch. I would tell her she was drunk by the time she was in her car. Then, all you got was a giggling child. I couldn't take my friends around because if she was pissed she would look at them with a sparkle in her eye. If she invited men around it was even more embarrassing."

According to a new study carried out among adult daughters of alcoholics, they suffer from distrust of others, low self-esteem and sexual dysfunction — simply as a result of growing up in an alcoholic home.

The research, published in the *International Journal of Addiction*, was carried out at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, and suggests that such people can suffer, not just when their parents are drinking, but for the rest of their lives.

Although it has been recognised for some time in America that alcoholism adversely affects not just the drinker, but his family as well, Britons have been slow to accept this possibility.

Today, the National Association for the Children of Alcoholics (Nacaa) will begin a two-day conference on the children of alcoholics at the St Joseph's Centre for Addiction at the Holy Cross Hospital, Haslemere, Surrey. Nacaa, one of three organisations in this country to offer help to adult children of alcoholics, is a self-help organisation which, it is hoped, will also help to increase understanding of people who have grown up in a drinking home.

The British Nacaa follows the pattern of similar organisations in America. Hilary Henriques, one of the founders, says: "I went to America in 1988 to research the subject, and came back

Children of alcoholics face — and frequently succumb to — medical problems in later life. Or do they? Alice Thomson reports on the strengths that may grow from weakness

feeling that special groups for children of alcoholics were desperately needed.

"We have AA and Al-Anon, but neither were giving enough attention to the problems that adult children of alcoholics suffer."

Ms Ironside took on the entire responsibility for her mother in her late teens. "I was an only child and had no one to help me out. Our roles became completely reversed. I was always the one having to chaperone her. I had to guide her along the pavement and sit in restaurants with her while she misbehaved. I could never ask her to do anything for me."

She tried to talk about it

and a really good friend. I would have loved it if she could have met the person I am living with now," she says.

"Sometimes I think I whine about it too much. A lot of children come from worse homes. But my mother, whom I loved, I couldn't trust, and I think the burden of having to cope with her affected me."

For several years before her mother died Ms Ironside suffered from terrible depression. She remembers deciding that if things had not got better by the time she was 30 she would kill herself. "I am sure that must have had something to do with the strain of my mother," she says. "I still feel

let myself go because someone had to be organised."

Susan Cheever is less convinced that her father's alcohol addiction has influenced her life. She has written two books about her father, John Cheever, the American novelist and short story writer, but neither of them mention the effect his addiction had on the family. "I am very involved in alcoholic programmes in America, but I am still not sure what I think of it or whether it has had any substantial effect on me," Ms Cheever says. "I think the subject has become somewhat overblown in America. People often use

alcoholic parents as an excuse for their actions. "You can get away with murder and blame it on your childhood. But when a family doesn't have an alcoholic parent it doesn't mean everything is going to be hunky-dory."

Ms Cheever admits that in some way she must have been scarred. "I remember realising there was something seriously wrong with my father after I got married. It wasn't very nice watching someone wrecking their life."

She is not an alcoholic and drinks socially, but she is concerned about her two children although determined not to influence their lives. "It will be up to them to decide," she says. "They know the history."

Additional reporting by Liz Hodgkinson



Troubled in tinsel-town: Eddie and Carrie Fisher



with family and friends, but says they did not understand. "They would say just let her have one drink, or would send her bottles of champagne. People thought I was just being nasty to her, but with just one drink inside her she was no longer my mother."

Over the years, Ms Ironside saw her mother disintegrate, and she says her lasting image of her will always be of a cowering woman, wearing a dressing gown and holding a bottle in her hand. She got cirrhosis of the liver and eventually began attempting to commit suicide.

"I think the worst thing was being rung up by a stranger saying my mother was in hospital having taken an overdose. I would go to the house and find the suicide message saying she loved me. Then I would go to the hospital and would be beside myself with misery that her attempt hadn't worked. It was a tremendous relief when she died."

Like many children of alcoholics, Ms Ironside often feels guilty. "I think, 'If only I could have done something more.' She was a wonderful woman when she was sober

tremendously uncomfortable about drink. When my friends offer their children alcohol I find myself getting angry with them, and when I see people drinking in the street I feel awful. I rarely drink much myself, and my 18-year-old son is very sensitive and does not drink much in front of me."

Ms Henriques says that American research has established that there are basically four types of people who come from alcoholic homes. "They are the Hero — the over-achiever who can never be satisfied; the Scapegoat — the family clown who takes the pressure off the others; the Mascot — the cute little baby; and the one who withdraws, and says: 'It's nothing to do with me.'"

These are all reactions, she says, of children who have been brought up in homes where they cannot trust their parents, and where they must never talk about what really went on. They are forced into assuming roles — they can never be themselves.

Ms Ironside thinks there have been some advantages to her upbringing. "I would never have become an agony aunt if I had not suffered so much."

"I've learnt to thrive on looking after others. Part of me feels that by helping them I am helping my mother. I have also learnt to cope. I couldn't

Drink is a feature of Cheever's stories, the gin-drinking mother, the cook who drinks in secret. Ms Cheever says that all of her parents' friends drank, so she did not notice her father's problem as much. "They would have a few glasses at lunch, a few before dinner and then would have a bottle of wine with their food. Weekends would be major drinking sessions. My mother would sometimes retire to the kitchen but there wasn't any social stigma, as there is now. In my generation if I drank three martinis it would be all round New York."

America's most talented have come a long way since the likes of Liza Minnelli and Carrie Fisher followed their parents Judy Garland and Eddie Fisher into drink or drug dependency.

Nacaa has four main aims: to raise the profile of children of alcoholics in the public consciousness; to reach professionals who deal with children of alcoholics; to offer advice and fellowship to these people; and to promote research into the phenomenon.

"We are also compiling a list of therapists and treatment centres," Ms Henriques says. "And we are planning to reach these children, while they are still children, by producing an information pack for schools, to help them talk about their experience of living in drinking homes." Ms Henriques stresses that Nacaa is not concerned with blaming par-

## MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Nuttall



## Return of the flea

ONE of the trials of a British soldier's life in the trenches more than 70 years ago was the flea. Today, in the same area as the soldiers fought over, the flea is back and posters on every school door warn of its return. In Britain, too, if the experience in Norfolk is typical, the flea has again become a nuisance. In Norwich the authorities had more calls in the past month to deal with fleas than in the whole of last summer. In that county, it seems that even a visit to the bank is not safe. Before health workers had dealt with the problem, recession-hit customers were not only getting the flea in the ear from the manager which they had expected, but were leaving his office with the characteristically grouped itching bites of fleas, usually on the legs and around the waist.

There are between two and three thousand species of flea in the world. Histori-

or under furniture. The flea is sensitive to its environment; hot summers and warm winters, particularly when supplemented by central heating and wall to wall carpeting, suit it admirably.

The flea bite is not always harmless; its size depends on the patient's sensitivity to the saliva and may be complicated by urticaria (nettle rash). The flea's responsibility for the plague is well-known, less well-known is that it also transmits salmonella, listeriosis, and parasitic worms, for when a victim scratches a bite he may well scratch the flea's faeces into the damaged skin.

Dilute hydrocortisone cream, or calamine lotion, ease the itch, but the best treatment is preventive. Cats and dogs, together with their bedding, should be regularly de-flea'd with an insecticide which should also be scattered into the nooks and crannies of the house where the eggs are laid.

## A likely story, comrade Lenin

THOSE who suggest that the secrecy and security which surround the display of Lenin's brain, carefully preserved with those of other formerly prominent dead Russians at the Academy of Sciences, are there because he suffered from neurosyphilis, usually add a rider. The disease, they say, was congenital rather than acquired; thereby placing the responsibility for any sexual indiscretions on Lenin's parents.

If Lenin did have neurosyphilis, the evidence for it would have to be detected through the microscope rather than with the naked eye. The brain is unlikely to have been attacked by obvious gummatous ulcers such as those which produce punched-out sores on the limbs, or holes between the nostrils or in the palate.

The brain, when viewed as a whole, might well have been atrophied, but neurosyphilis is only one of the

## A catch in close contact

BEFORE enjoying the dinner cooked by the mother of my godson, Thomas, this week, we had a session even bloodier than the joint of enucleating (scooping out) some molluscum contagiosum from the skin of his arms and legs. Molluscum contagiosum are small, round, curly bodies, one to five millimetres in diameter, with a dimpled centre. Infection is transmitted by a virus and spread by close bodily contact. Molluscum is usually found in children, but it is also seen in adults, where it grows on the fine skin of the genitalia, breast and around the eyes.

Enucleating is time-consuming but probably the treatment of choice. However, even pricking the spots with a sharpened stick moistened with phenol is often enough to destroy them. Many doctors leave an extensive outbreak in children for nature to take its course.

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

# Workaholic gets second shot at life

Geoff Brown on *Regarding Henry*, *True Identity*, *Only the Lonely*, *Cabeza de Vaca* and the re-issue of Godard's *Weekend*

Ruthless lawyer Harrison Ford mutters "Going to get some cigarettes, I'll be right back," to his wife in Mike Nichols's *Regarding Henry* (12, Plaza). Fate has other plans. Shots from a robber's handgun cause brain damage and a cardiac arrest. Ford's character, Henry Turner, survives, but must start from scratch, learning to talk, walk, to pick a triangle from a page of shapes, and regain memories of family and friends. Back in his apartment overlooking Central Park, the more Turner rediscovers about his old life, the less he likes it. Thanks to a few bullets, this icy workaholic — clearly kin to Tom Wolfe's *Master of the Universe* in *The Bonfire of the Vanities* — rejects Eighties values and becomes a good, caring family man. Squeezed into a nutshell, the plot appears facile. At times, it is a character like Bradley, the physiotherapist who rehabilitates Ford with jokes and coddles, is just too convenient to swallow. And for all its implied criticism of the money-grabbing Eighties, *Regarding Henry* never shakes off the old Hollywood feeling that calamity hits only those with the health insurance, the understanding employer and the loving wife to cushion the blow. "Are we going to be poor now?" Ford's little girl asks his wife, Annette Bening (no split here) — more like Florence Nightingale. Whatever the future we know this family will never be poor.

Yet in general Jeffrey Abrams script probes delicate emotion with a dexterity rare in a youthful newcomer. To gauge his age, watch the fresh-faced boy deliver groceries that is Abrams, in cameo. Poignancy moves hand in hand with humour — a difficult manoeuvre, but Mike Nichols guides his actors with precise skill.

If Ford stumbled, the film would

collapse alongside. He never does. As the heartless lawyer Ford is perfectly chilling — his hair combed back tightly, his voice a drone. Later, as the brain-damaged husband struggling to regain a place in life, he avoids all cheap tricks. "What — do I do — when I'm — home?" he asks the maid, bemused, halting. There is no proper answer: before the accident, he was hardly there.

*True Identity* (15, Odeon Leicester Square) concerns another Henry: Lenny Henry. Though at times it is hard to locate British television's beaming boy in his Hollywood debut, the slapdash script repeatedly forces him to don white skin, a false nose, a mobster accent, and a brown wig that

transforms the genial comic into a bizarre visual confusion of Dustin Hoffman and Gene Wilder. We know Henry enjoys a great gift for mimicry, but in *True Identity* he almost mimics himself out of existence. Henry plays a struggling New York actor, pursued by a hitman after he learns that Frank Langella's character, a

*Poignancy moves hand in hand with humor. Mike Nichols guides his actors with skill*

sleek arts patron, is really a Mafia kingpin. Accidentally killing the hit-man in a fight, Henry adopts his assailant's identity while trying to galvanise the FBI. Disguise removed, he ends up on stage amidst crouching marksmen, playing the lead in Langella's production of *Othello*: we might be watching some comedy thriller from 50 years ago.

Lenny Henry is not the only talent struggling to reach the mainstream. In his case, some sweetness and ebullience shine through, but Charles Lane directs with barely a trace of the idiosyncratic talent who charmed the festival circuit with *Sideways*. *Stories*, a silent, Chaplinesque comedy about homelessness. Like his colleague Spike Lee, Lane gets to play the hero's best friend: a small



Touching: Mikki Allen (left) is Rachel, daughter to Henry (Harrison Ford), a transformed father in Mike Nichols's *Regarding Henry*

special effects expert addicted to huge women. It is the film's worst joke.

Only the *Lonely* (12, Plaza) comes from the *Home Again* team of writer-director Chris Columbus and producer John Hughes. But this is no slick suspense comedy geared for youngsters: the ideal audience for this tale of a lonely Chicago cop, nearing 40, trying to escape from under his mother's cantankerous thumb, is an older audience, nearing 40 and beyond, that no longer visits the cinema. Maybe Maureen O'Hara will prove sufficient bait. The spirited red-head, unseen in films since *Big Jake* in 1971, attacks the mother's role with lovely vigour, spitting out tart ethnic slurs — mother is an Irish immigrant of the old school — and looking far less than her 70 years.

As the cop, far funnysman John Candy moves into semi-dramatic territory with great success.

Though hardly a Valentino, he also convinces as a romantic lead, falling in love with an undertaker's daughter (Ally Sheedy) just as lonely as himself. His bulk proves invaluable when mother returns early from an overnight visit: Sheedy simply hides behind him. Columbus pitches his story midway between realistic comedy and fairy tale. Awkward moments result, but what price defects with such pleasing playing and tender romance?

Jean-Luc Godard's *Weekend* (18, Remor) first erupted on to British screens in 1968 — the perfect time to savour its attack on capitalist society and support for armed anarchy. More than 20 years later, capitalism has dug in its heels, and grey men lead the Western world. Now Godard's film springs up like a jack-in-the-box: it is noisy, rude and vividly coloured in a fine new print,

reminding us of the old battles. Jean Yanne and Mireille Darc play the vengeful bourgeoisie incarnate, embarked on a countryside drive through snarled traffic, mutilated bodies, revolutionary groups, and figments and figures from history (such as Saint-Just, or Emily Brontë, who is set on fire). *Weekend* was always peppered with humour, from brutal slapstick to the playful captions so typical of Godard ("A film found in a dump"). Removed from the Sixties' frontline, much of it appears funnier than ever. Time has also enhanced Raoul Coutard's limpid photography and the brooding music of Antoine Duhamel.

Trouble rises once Godard throws off his jester's cap and picks up the class-fighter's megaphone. When two garbage workers deliver an anti-colonial diatribe, this spinning Catherine wheel of a film suddenly stands still.

Then comes the lengthy encounter with the Seine-et-Oise Liberation Front: haranguing, drumming and eating their class enemies like a cannibal tribe. Stretched before us, we see Godard's desolate future in agit-prop cinema, but the best of *Weekend* catches the grand iconoclast just before the fizzle went flat. Do not miss the supporting short film, *L'Amour existe*, a fascinating documentary about the Paris suburbs, made by Maurice Pialat in 1961.

*Cabeza de Vaca* (Metro), showing concurrently with the Latin American Film Festival, is a jangling Mexican epic, describing the life of a Spanish conquistador captured by Indians. Director Nicolas Echevarria, making his first feature after several documentaries, confidently thrusts his exotic 16th century world on to the screen. However, the fancy fish-eye camera shots are obtrusive and unnecessary: the images prove bizarre enough on their own.

## PIPING

### Piping them in

SCOTLAND has a new orchestra from today, and one based for the first time at Perth. The 36-strong Sinfonia of Scotland is to be formally launched by the Countess of Moray, the orchestra's president, with support from Perth and Kinross District Council. A young Italian, Gualtiero Pedriali, has been named music director, and Scottish composers George MacLachlan and Nigel Don are featured in the inaugural concert on October 9.

### Win double

THE Empty Space award, a new £500 cash prize inspired by Peter Brook, for work performed in small theatres, goes jointly to Tinch Minter and Elisabeth Bold-Pabst. They adapted and translated the two "Ingolstadt" plays, *Pioneers and Purgatory*, by Marie-Luise Fleisser, for the Gate Theatre.

### Last chance...



Pleasance: original

ALARMING and poignant, Pinter's first success, *The Caretaker*, is still the most accessible of his full-length plays. For this author-directed revival, Donald Pleasance recreates his classic performance of 31 years ago, as the tramp. Until Saturday at the Comedy (071-868-1045).

### ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre, Dance and a From  
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### GALLERIES: LONDON

## Guided by the stars in his eyes

American James Turrell, having his first London show, talks to Richard Cork about light and about his multi-million-dollar project to turn a volcanic crater into a gallery of celestial observation

Turrell, in his late forties, has been fascinated by the mysteries of light and the cosmos since boyhood. Growing up in Pasadena, he inhabited a bedroom which his father, an aeronautical engineer and amateur ornithologist, had earlier peppered with little windows to let birds fly in and out. Wartime blackouts meant that each window was supplied with a dark blind, and the young Turrell would use them to shut out all the sunlight. Then, in the darkness, he got to work. "I made pinholes in the blinds to represent a constellation of stars," he recalls, "making visible the things that were in the sky but normally invisible during the day."

Although his fascination with light grew from that time onwards, he had for a while no idea what to do with it. "I looked at the artists who had painted with light, especially Monet, Rothko, Reinhardt and Newman," he says. "But with my American directness and naïveté, I decided in the end to dispense with painting and take light itself as my working material." The outcome, so far as his

early work was concerned, can be seen in one section of the d'Offay show. Descending to a darkened and empty basement room, the visitor is confronted by *Decker*, a dazzling rectangle of light projected on to the end wall. Turrell made this taut, economical piece in 1967, when the Minimal movement was at its height. All his work of this period was very spare, a quality he relates in part to his Quaker upbringing. "They thoroughly disapprove of art and don't even believe in decoration," he says with a smile, "but the whole Quaker thing is to do with going inside yourself to meet the light. Consciously or not, the Quakers do in fact relish a kind of lush severity: their meeting-houses of plaster and wood are very beautiful."

So is the most spectacular installation in Turrell's show, a monumental work from 1982 called *Raycor* which occupies half of the main gallery. The room has been transformed into a wide, white box, and at the far end a colossal oblong hovers in space with intense blue-green

light pulsating around its edges. Using a blend of natural and fluorescent light, Turrell manages to flood the entire space with a soft, hazy radiance. Within this highly charged chamber, the oblong seems to float with ease, changing colour from near-silhouetted blackness to a deep, rich purple.

This is a magisterial work, at once severe and sensual. The light presses itself forcibly upon us, helping to explain why Turrell wants to "move consciousness out through the eyes to feel the space. The eyes are the most exposed part of the brain, and we have this great capacity to feel through them." He regards his gallery work as "chamber music, which helps me learn how to handle the symphony." But the volcano remains "the thing I most want to do," and he flew all over the western United States in his own aeroplane looking for the site before he found it, near Flagstaff. It allows him to use the sky "as my arena, my canvas if you like."

Here, with luck and the requisite amount of sponsorship, Turrell will be able to generate "the sense of awe I find in Egyptian art, Mayan culture and the great cathedrals. If you're taken away from the city lights, you'd be surprised how much you can really see." Turrell uses the word "odyssey" to describe how he travels towards this enormously ambitious goal. He sees art as "a long-



Minimal fuss: Turrell and one of his installations

distance race. Only when you have gone way down the road do you see art as it really is." He quotes with approval a remark that Fats Waller once made: "People never change, they just stand more revealed."

If everything goes according to plan, the unveiling of the Roden Crater project in the late 1990s could be the mo-

ment when Turrell's life-work is finally defined in all its singleminded dedication and sense of wonder.

James Turrell. Light installations. Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 9, 21 & 23 Dering Street, London W1 (071-499 4100). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm. Sat 10am-1pm. Until October 5.

### TELEVISION: REVIEW

## Mute, inglorious

Perhaps I was missing the point, but last night's *Thatcher: The Final Days* (ITV/Granada) seemed to offer the same dubious enjoyment as watching *Spitting Image* with the sound turned off. In the Granada tradition of drama-documentary (*Who Bombed Birmingham?* and so on), the production went to extraordinary lengths to re-create visually the details of last year's Tory leadership election, with stunningly convincing Downing Street interiors, and excellent hairpieces and specs for the luckless actors impersonating cabinet ministers.

But there is a saying in show business: don't leave the audience humming the set. And unfortunately, the programme's most lasting impression may derive from the wallpaper and Regency chairs, rather than from any new (or dramatic) insight into how Mrs Thatcher met her political end. She was right: it's a funny old world.

Where was the drama, exactly? The limitations of drama-documentary are that, even though a film may set out to inform and entertain, it performs each of these functions with both arms strapped lightly behind its back. It informs — but in such a way that you don't know how far to believe it. And it entertains — but not if it means inventing anything. With a story as familiar as Mrs Thatcher's downfall from office, the audience would surely prefer either a juicy factual analysis pro-

gramme or a *House of Cards*-type satirical drama. Instead of which, one's main pleasure in watching *Thatcher: The Final Days* was in looking forward to (and checking off) familiar scenes: such as Michael Heseltine's doorstep press conference, complete with silent attentive spouse. Gosh, it was sometimes exactly how you remembered it.

Sylvia Syms's performance as Mrs Thatcher stood up to scrutiny pretty well, particularly in the quieter moments. In the smiling, breathy I'm-a-reasonable-woman guise of media interviews, she was sometimes quite thrillingly accurate. At the dispatch box, on the other hand, she had a tendency to sound strained and coarse: betraying the fact, perhaps, that Mrs Thatcher's own voice had received better training than any actor's. Umpteen lookalike cabinet ministers assumed poses, rather like people re-creating da Vinci's *Last Supper*, and on the opposition benches, non-speaking actors pointed their wire-rimmed specs at the ceiling (à la Gerald Kaufman), or huddled with a vacant frown (à la Roy Hattersley). But how far short of an adequate political gravitas the actors generally came: Paul Rogers as Geoffrey Howe delivered his Commons speech, holding his little stack of A5 dynamite authentically in trembling hands, but his vocal delivery seemed jolly thin in comparison with the real thing.

LYNNE TRUSS

## Billy Budd

Britten

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# A divine fire descends...

The greatness of Tim Albery's ENO production ... lies in the light it shines deep into the work's moral and musical issues ... It dazzles as brightly now in this first revival as it did when the production was new ... It should not be missed. *The Times*

Devastating, shattering, overwhelming: the adjectives, inadequate to the revival of Britten's opera at ENO, may at least suggest its enormous impact ... one of the supreme operatic achievements of our day. *Financial Times*

Once in a while divine fire descends on an opera performance. It doesn't happen very often, but when it does, as it did at ENO's revival of *Billy Budd*, the experience is simply overwhelming. When opera really works, there's nothing to touch it. There's no question of criticising a performance like this, because there's

nothing to criticise: conducting, singing, playing, staging, all coalesced into an indissoluble whole that revealed only the work itself — surely Britten's masterpiece — in all its uncompromising power ... The performance is without fault ... A triumph in every way. *Evening Standard*

ENO



## The high cost of politics

Anatole Kaletsky on the disadvantages of electoral uncertainty

The prime minister's prerogative to call a poll whenever he thinks it to his advantage is taken for granted in Britain, although many foreigners consider it strange. The standard political objection — that it gives the government an unfair advantage — is widely dismissed, and rightly so. Governments have all kinds of inherent advantages over oppositions, but judging by the frequency with which they have changed in Britain, this injustice is adequately made up for, either by politicians' incompetence in timing elections, or, more likely, by the electorate's innate common sense.

What matters far more is the economic cost. As the country enters its tenth month of pre-electioneering (starting the countdown from Mrs Thatcher's demise in November last year), the costs of the uncertainty are mounting rapidly.

The usual accusations of pre-election manipulation centre on macro-economic policies such as changes in taxes, interest rates and public spending. But a government that knew it had exactly five years to run might try even more assiduously to guarantee a boom, or at least a period of prosperity, in year five. That might be undesirable, but at least every businessman, investor and consumer would have five years' advance notice of the government's intentions. In America, every Republican administration since the war, with the exception of the second Reagan presidency, has experienced a recession or marked slowdown in the economy during its first and second years, and then a marked recovery in the two years before the next election.

In Britain, by contrast, the period since November 1990 has been marked by constant flurries of pre-election excitement which have diverted attention from the longer-term cycle in the economy to the prospects of sharp pre-election cuts in interest rates, devaluations of sterling or budget giveaways. As a result, both the economy and the government have lost out. John Major has never been given credit for his willingness to stick it out until the end of the recession, and the economy has not benefited fully from cuts in interest rates, because of fear that they might be just a pre-election gimmick.

There are other, more tangible costs, which can be confidently identified. Take last week's announcement that London Transport would neither receive more public money nor be allowed to raise its fares, as recommended by the Monopolies Commission report. This decision went against the urging of the government's top economic advisers, who firmly believe that new investment in London Transport is necessary, and that passengers should bear the cost. To admit in a pre-election period that tube fares might have to double is inconceivable, but to go on delaying investment decisions entails enormous costs. Other economic decisions postponed because of electioneering include the siting of the Channel Tunnel rail link and a fundamental review of housing finance and taxation.

Nobody would suggest that potentially unpopular decisions should be announced without regard to election timing. Governments are inevitably influenced by short-term electoral considerations. The difficulty arises in Britain because not even the prime minister knows when the next election will be. Short-term thinking dominates for too long when the pre-election period seems to have no beginning and no end.

Charles Bremner reports that Americans see nothing unusual in seeking damages over affairs of the heart

## Judging the price of love



Martina Navratilova and Judy Nelson: signed a lovers' pact

For those wanting to catch up on the legal travails of Martina Navratilova this week, the American media were not much help. While the British tabloids were savouring the details of the law suit by Ms Navratilova's one-time lesbian lover, American newspapers and television gave the story only brief coverage. The *New York Times* found the case unworthy of mention yesterday, as did the *The New York Post*, one of America's few British-style popular dailies.

Americans often profess to be amused at what they see as a British obsession with titillating news, but the difference has little to do with squeamishness over matters sexual in this case. The reason for the lack of interest is simply that in a country which regards litigation as something between sport and psychotherapy, so-called palimony suits — even ones involving homosexual celebrities — have become quite commonplace.

In recent months, Rod Stewart has been served with a \$25 million suit (£14.7 million) by an ex-mistress who hopes to repeat the success of Britt Ekland, who won over a million dollars in an earlier claim against him. Rosanne Barr is also defending

herself against a multi-million dollar suit and in San Francisco; Robin Williams, the comedian and actor, is fighting a messy case against a self-described mistress of two years who is demanding \$6 million.

On the homosexual side, two weeks ago, a New York man sued Robert Rauschenberg, the artist, for \$65 million compensation for his contribution to the artist's output during a twenty-year liaison. Also awaiting trial is a multi-million dollar claim by a male horse-trainer against Merv Griffin, the one-time talk-show host and now billionaire businessman.

Palimony suits usually fail at trial, as did last year's attempt by a former mistress of actor William Hurt. More often, they are settled out of court, as is likely to happen in Ms Navratilova's case. But occasionally plaintiffs hit the jackpot. The biggest in the homosexual variant came in 1989 when Marc Christian won \$22 million from the estate of Rock Hudson, after proving to a Los Angeles

court that he had been the late actor's long-time lover. The award was considered generous because Mr Christian had not contracted HIV, the virus which brought on Mr Hudson's Aids.

The palimony business opened in 1976 when Marvin Mitchellson, the celebrity lawyer, persuaded a Californian court to recognise the property rights of unmarried couples. He later

coined the term "palimony" after defending the case against Lee Marvin. The scope for claims has been broadened by a social climate which has led courts to fix dollar amounts to the less tangible aspects of conjugal life. In the latest exercise in creative thinking, a New York court has just awarded a heavy sum to the ex-wife of Marc Gastineau, a football player who threw away

his career to run off with a mistress. The money represented a share of the notional income that he would have received in the future had he kept his job.

In the early days of palimony, lawyers predicted such a deluge of litigation by cast-off lovers that some offered a waiver form to be signed before a one-night stand. But the courts in the 38 states that recognise the concept of palimony have applied such strict criteria that claims have been restricted to the celebrity world. Successful suits usually involve a recorded contract of the type Ms Navratilova made with Ms Nelson. Among famous failures in the early 1980s were attempts by homosexual lovers to extract large sums from Bille Jean King and Liberace.

But a palimony claim remains a potent weapon against a famous lover whose reputation will be besmirched by a trial. A mere hint of a suit, particularly involving homosexuality, is often enough to ensure hefty private settlements, according to gossip

in the legal world. The threat of bad publicity played a role in its Navratilova's case, she made clear when she revealed on a letter from Ms Nelson's lawyer in Monday. "If litigation is filed, he press here and abroad will have a field day," the lawyer warned. In the event, two days of pre-trial hearing was apparently enough for the tennis player.

It is clear that a claim is a close opportunity for the vengeful ex-lovers of celebrities, because even if they push the case to trial and lose, they do at least gain the satisfaction of inflicting humiliation. William Hurt's image has never been the same since his mistress depicted him as a drunken brute in television proceedings. And Mr Griffin's case threatens to be a public relations catastrophe, since he is opposing lawyer has threatened to "go for his jugular".

Hillel Chossov, the lawyer who successfully defended the millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale against the claims of a former model, recently explained the real motivation behind such suits. "People are usually after things the court can't give them, like revenge or justification. They are angry because the person they picked turned out to be a turkey."

Bernard Levin welcomes the memoirs of Quentin Crewe, an adventurer who has never lost his zest for experience

Watch. A man, in a restaurant, is about to light a cigarette. He bends his hand claw-like, palm upwards; he tilts his other arm till it falls, then he rests on it the elbow of the arm with the hand which holds the lighter. He inclines his neck and closes his lips over the cigarette, which is the way he pulls it out of the packet. The cigarette is now between his lips; he inclines a little more, and pushes up the spare elbow, so that his mouth and lighter meet. Using his thumb alone to spark the flame, he brings cigarette and ignition together; he does it by using the last possible inclination of his neck and head. He keeps the flame alight as he takes the first puff, then the claw-like hand drops the lighter onto the table, followed by the cigarette packet. He inhales.

And that is only lighting a cigarette; what do you think he has to do to wrap up a parcel? We are speaking of Quentin Crewe, author, wit, traveller extraordinary, gastronome and wise-bibber, vividly blue-blooded member of several aristocracies, record debtor, eternal optimist, delightfully malicious, easily moved to laughter, uxorious and philoprogenitive yet astoundingly successful as a persistent fornicator, impossible — literally impossible — to quarrel with, a man with an immense number and infinite variety of friends, and a man who by every test, prognosis, appearance, examination, precedent, behaviour, diet and actuarial computation should have been dead long ago, indeed should never have survived infancy.

For he was born with an appalling handicap: the wasting disease called muscular dystrophy, by the implacable progress of which the

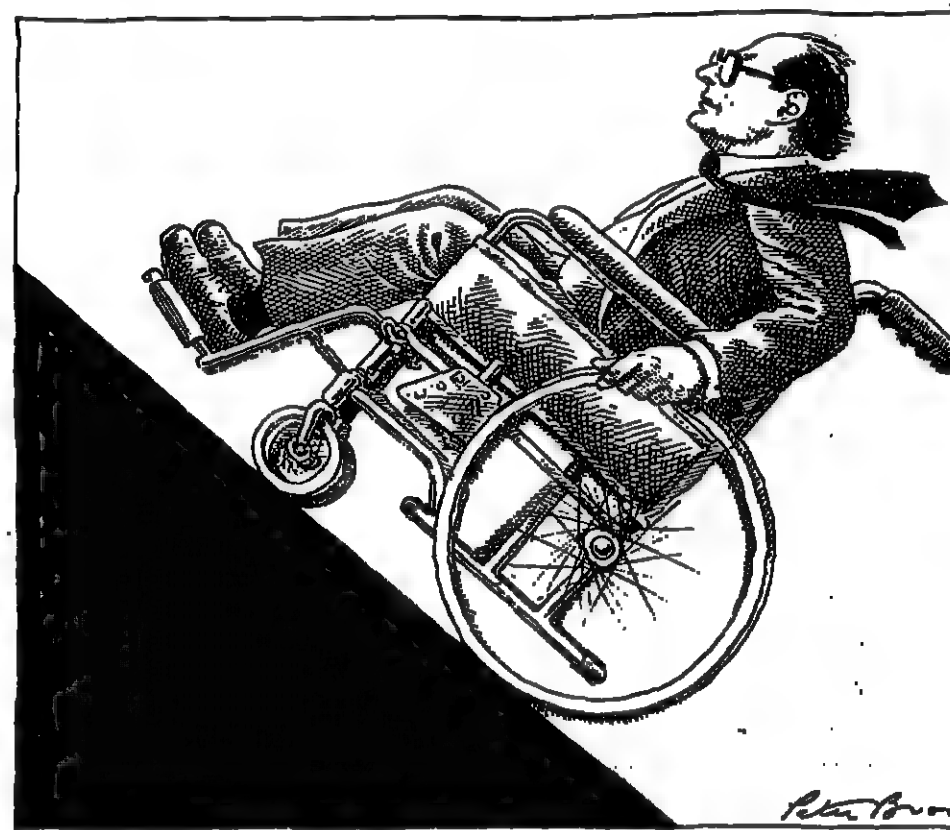
sufferer loses more and more of his physical capacities — whence my description of the way he has to light a cigarette. (He refuses to reveal how he goes to the lavatory, much less how he lives up to my description of him as a champion wench.)

We are all familiar with the tantalising game of wondering how we would behave in extreme conditions: under torture, in battle, imprisoned, gone blind. We are also familiar with authenticated examples of the way human beings can rise to the occasion: the pale, henpecked conscript who wins the VC, the colourless bank clerk who tackles the armed robbers. And the man who is born with muscular dystrophy.

I am convinced that had I been in Quentin's place, I would have let go and died, probably in my early twenties. How has he not only survived, but triumphed?

That question, at least, can be answered. His book *Well, I Forget the Rest* (the title is a line from Browning) is published today by Hutchinson, and I assure you that although you will be amazed and fascinated by it, you will also be enraged. The amazement comes from the things he has done — things that only a very few, and those with all their bodies intact, would have dared do. The fascination is provided partly by the felicity of his writing and partly by the quality and character of the man. But the rage that will send you stamping about the room comes from the almost unbelievable insouciance; it is so unshaken, so gay, so genuine and so impudent that the reader is hard put to it not to wish him irreversible prostration as well.

Quentin's malady moved slowly; he was cruelly mocked by his coevals as a child, but when I first knew him he could walk, though



clumsily. As more and more mobility was taken from him, he was plainly determined to cram into his life every experience, good and bad, that he encountered. From sitting at the feet of Lady Violet Bonham Carter ("...familiar with every nuance of political thought since Gladstone, on whose knee she had sat, sceptically counting the number of times he chewed each mouthful and finding it woefully fewer than the thirty-two that every nanny told every upper-class child to emulate") to staying with Willy Mostyn-Owen's mother ("a dotty pyramid of a woman who drank copious amounts of sherry and embarrassed her children"). Gradually, it becomes clear that he would have been a grandmaster of life even if his body had been like other people's; I do not think I have ever read an autobiography in which so much

happens on every page. Most of the things that happen are very funny, at least as he tells them, for Quentin has never wavered in his conviction that life is a tremendous joke; he sees everything through comic spectacles, including death — no, especially death.

Some of the things he has done for a living are positively weird: he spent years reading to Percy Lubbock in Italy, for instance, and I often wonder how the dialogue went back in London: "And what do you do?" "Well, actually, I read to Percy Lubbock." "Er, how frightfully interesting."

As his body slowed, he made sure that the earth, his private carousel, would spin faster. Jobs in journalism came and went, marriages (three so far, with five children so far) also came and went; still he enjoyed life, indeed enjoyed it ever more intensely;

there is a wonderful scene of carpet-biting, in the style of Hitler, by Jocelyn Stevens, and an account of the stupendous generosity of Joseph Berkman, who would give dinner to a dozen or so friends (I was one of them) and serve with the meal a dozen or more great vintages of, say, Latour or Mouton-Rothschild; there were so many glasses that we each had a table to ourselves.

But every time the music stopped, Quentin's Bane was seen to have advanced a little further. Somewhat irked (only somewhat, you understand), he decided that life was getting too tame. Beachcomber (J.B. Morton) recorded the exploits of Evans the Hearse, the first man to push a pea to the top of Mount Snowdon with his nose. But Beachcomber was joking; it was no joke when Quentin announced that he was going to traverse the Empty Quarter of

Saudi Arabia; only three Europeans had ever done so, and assuredly none of the three had done it in a wheelchair.

There came a moment when he could no longer walk even with two sticks, yet the smile never faded, and the absurdity of the universe was kept prominently in mind, even when he watched three executions. The sorrows of the desert journey would have killed many an ox or elephant (one night he rolled onto a scorpion and couldn't roll off), but perhaps muscular dystrophy doesn't kill you; at all events, it doesn't kill him, for he completed the trek and promptly hustled off to South Africa, there to bat the upholders of apartheid into a double fury, the second half being their realisation that it wouldn't look good if they beat a bloody cripple. (Perhaps I should have mentioned that he didn't go straight there: "...I made a journey of it, travelling up the Nile, visiting Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and what was still Rhodesia. ... In Ethiopia, I telephoned the Emperor's granddaughter Mary...") After that, he went right across the Sahara.

Did I not tell you that you would be enraged? He lives in France now, probably planning a trip over the Alps in the new motorised wheelchair devised by his friends Anthony Snowden and Jeremy Fry. Then, no doubt, the Pyrenees; perhaps the Tuscany Deep in a special bathosphere which will take a wheelchair, the Himalayas... the Moon... When will he stop, like Alexander, because there are no more worlds to conquer? It makes no difference; for it is the inward journey he has made that demonstrates his mastery over his fate. I know very many people who know Quentin; I have never heard any of them speak of him with pity. Indeed, I have never heard any of them discuss his disability. Except, perhaps, to wonder how he still attracts the adies, and what exactly he does when he has attracted them.

...and moreover

## CRAIG BROWN

At the bottom of the invitation I read "RSVP ASAP AM or PM". Quick as a flash I knew that I was being summoned to the AGM of the Acronym Association (aka AA). "OK," I replied with a 2HB on a PC, and sent my acceptance back to the MD's PA in LA. P.D.O., as requested, noted that acronyms are becoming such an important part of the modern world, I always strive to give the organisation my fullest support. Where would we be if we had to rely on old-fashioned, long-winded words? VIPs from the PM's PPS to the DG of the BBC are finding it speeds up the R.P.M.s to speak in the ABC, as well as being VG for PR.

I parked my car in an NCP and went the rest of the way to the AGM GHQ by BR. At the door I was given my ID by a WPC. They wanted 75p ONO COD, but finding myself short of LSD I gave them an IOU signed by my lo to JP.

The conference hall was packed with VIPs from the TUC (NUR, NALGO, ASTMS) and the CBI (many of them OEs), from privatised industries including BT and BA, and from the US. A delegate from the USSR had been expected, but in recent months the Rs have changed from being S and from being S, and since they are no longer a U either, he had sent apologies.

In the hall there were facilities galore: WPs, CDs, AM and FM radios, VTRs. Teamsters (PG Tips), digital displays showing

GMT and the FT-SE 100, plus the GNP of members of the UN. Happily there was also an ample supply of low-tech WPs in case these facilities went wrong.

While testing my IQ on a VDU, I overheard a group of high-ranking retail executives introducing themselves to one another, "C and A," said one. "M and S," said another. "S and M," said a third, and I couldn't help but notice the other two seeming to shy away from him with a strong measure of distaste.

Snacks in the conference bar included BLT sandwiches washed down with OJ or VS, or for serious drinkers, IPA. Suddenly the MC in the hall, a professional DJ who was a little OTT, gave a VO announcing an SOS over the PA that the AA conference was about to start.

"What's the first item of the AGM?" asked an A&R at A&M of a C-in-C at the MoD.

"The demise of the SDP," came the answer.

"RIP Rt Hon Dr D.O. MP, PC," he replied.

"Even with PR he would have been missing from the HoC at the next GE, the SOB." Nevertheless, it was generally agreed that the end of the SDP was bad news for the Acronym Association, which, only four years ago, had been able to offer its members a choice of voting between the SDP, the SDLP, the SNP, the SLD and even the NF. "Neither the Labour party nor the Conservative party has done anything whatsoever for ac-

ronyms in this country," said one speaker, "I blame that N.K. and that J.M."

"QED," said the first speaker of the day in conclusion. The ADC to the MC then asked us to PTO our agendas, as there would be a change to the running-order, with Q&As to the MD of the OED (an OBE) to follow.

Suddenly there was a disruption at the back of the hall. "IRA?" asked a PC. "Or UFO?" In fact, it was neither. An active member of the AAAA (Anti Allied Acronymic Academics Association) was demanding the right to be heard.

"Our language is drowning under a tidal wave of unnecessary initials," he boomed. "Am I the only man in this conference hall today who yearns for the days when a word was a word and not simply the excuse for a set of initials? Frankly, comrades I'd like to ask you this simple question: YOY?"

"He gives me the DTs," muttered my neighbour.

"He drives here in his horrid little VW with his ghastly BO and his PVC anorak and his claims to ESP and he expects us to treat him like a KCB?" grumbled another neighbour. "If it was up to me, I'd give him a little GBH and flush his SOS down the WC ASAP or I'm not a member of the RAC."

Temperatures were soaring, so I stole quietly away, for even I was now beginning to wonder whether so many acronyms had not caused our glorious English language to go, well, AWOL.

## In his good books?

THOUGH the gospels advise "judge not that ye be not judged", the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Philip Goodrich, has asked colleagues to ignore the warning. He is submitting his episcopal performance to audit, asking his flock to give marks out of ten on various criteria by which an episcopate should be measured.

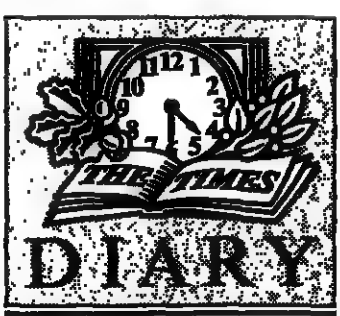
His judges will be both church colleagues and a committee of lay outsiders, likely to include a businessman, a comprehensive headmaster and a police officer.

"I am doing this in the interests of putting the diocese on a missionary footing," he says. "I'm a fairly laid-back bishop, but I wanted to respond to the call to



make the last decade of this century be a decade of evangelism." Other church bodies, down to parish level, are already examined in a similar manner, says the bishop. "So to encourage them I thought I would take some of my own medicine."

The bishop is keen to stress that his scheme should not be taken too personally. "It's not exactly a personal appraisal," he says. "I



don't want people saying 'Philip is a jolly good fellow' and giving me a pat on the back."

Criteria for appraisal will be taken from the list of duties of a bishop set out in the service book. The stress is on "areas for growth and improvement," he says. "I plan to produce a list of priorities, such as the need for better communications, or more calls to prayer. Then people can tick a box according to what they feel we need." And what if the bishop is given the thumbs-down? "It would be wrong to suggest in any way that my job is on the line."

## Building a new...

NICHOLAS RIDLEY may be right to fear that German financial might will soon be running the whole of Europe, but at least it will be doing so partly from a building stamped "Made in Britain".

The British architectural practice Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners has beaten nine German practices in the race to design the first stock exchange in Berlin. The deal is due to be officially announced in Berlin next week, but Nicholas Grimshaw confirmed yesterday that he has won the contract. "I'm a fanatical European," he says. "The attitude is so different. The Germans don't see it as us storming over there and grabbing their job. It's so nice to

get out of the stuffy atmosphere of England." Details of the design are still secret, but Grimshaw has a reputation for imaginative plans, including the British pavilion for Expo '92 and the Waterloo international terminal.

Those being solicited by the Bank of Scotland to apply for a new credit card are somewhat surprised at having to return the application to a Massachusetts address. Intrigued inquirers are being told by the bank that although lists of likely candidates are compiled in Britain, it is cheaper to return them to America and then fly them back to Britain in bulk.

## Across the blue line

A BITTER dispute about representation, of a kind scarcely seen since the breakaway of the Nottinghamshire miners has erupted in the police force. The argument has been brought to a head by Kenneth Baker's decision to address the conference of the newly formed National Association of Special Constabulary Officers, this Saturday. The organisation, with only 300 members out of the 15,000-strong special constabulary, has been shunned by the main police organisations, which are furious at the home secretary's endorsement.

Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, says: "They are the amateur wing of the service. If they try to tread on ground that is our preserve, there will be problems." The National Association of Chief Police Officers has also withheld official recognition, and the commandants of the 43 special forces have instructed their members to boycott the association. With an election imminent, for Tom King to lose the support of the armed forces over "Options for Change" was a misfortune.

## Postling

ALTHOUGH Jocelyn Stevens does not take up his post as chairman of English Heritage until next April, the appointment has already caused confusion and chaos in the organisation. By coincidence, the ever-worrier dealing with north Yorkshire in English Heritage's London headquarters has exactly the same name. Ms Jocelyn Stevens — for so she is — has learnt fast how to deal with calls meant for her future boss. "People are surprised when they hear a woman's voice," she says, "but I'm sure the switchboard will soon sort it out once he arrives."

"Mail is a bigger problem. 'If it srs 'Esquire', it's easy, but sometimes it just says 'Jocelyn Stevens' and I open it," she says. "I have a lot at the opening line and if it isn't about north Yorkshire, I quickly re-seal the envelope."

But the two Jocelyn Stevenses have met before. "I dropped a cheque card at Euston last summer. When they found it, a call for Jocelyn Stevens came over the public address system," says Ms Stevens. "I rushed to get it and found that the other Jocelyn Stevens was already there."

Carl Marx lives on, at least in London. As the statues topple in Moscow and St Petersburg, Labour-controlled Camden council has no plans to remove the bust in its members' room at the town hall. It was presented to the council by the Soviet ambassador on the centenary of Marx's death in 1983. A spokeswoman says: "Given his contribution to socio-economic opinion he should stay there whatever the political climate."





## RIOTOUS ESTATES

Nothing induces more instant hysteria from politicians and media than civil disturbance. The chief victim of this hysteria is sensible policing. Disturbances occur every Thursday night throughout the land, indeed throughout the world. The job of a police chief is to judge the scale and speed of response and is peculiarly hard. The job of those being wise after the event is particularly easy.

The events of Tuesday night in North Shields, coming on top of those recently in Oxford and Cardiff, can naturally be made to appear part of some synchronised collapse of urban order. But most sensible policemen know that hot dry summers always produce gatherings of young people ready to turn to destructive mischief at the slightest provocation. Seaside resorts have long been plagued by them. The best policeman of all rain.

Most sensible policemen also know that over-reaction can turn an anti-social prank into a destructive disturbance, if not one that deserves the glamour of "riot" status. The more such incidents are exaggerated, the more inclined policemen are to play safe by turning paramilitary. And if more police do not riot gear, the more gang of young people, few of whom would really hurt bricks at unprotected policemen feel the thrill of battle against those whom they think they are unlikely to hurt.

The Northumbria chief console was right on Tuesday to contain the art of trouble and only send in force when he had little option and when he had enough force to avoid serious injury. Whether without this cool but massive intervention as harm might have been caused, to property and to Tyneside's image, will never be known. Instant action might have been wise.

The prospect of seeing their pills and spills on television must surely be an incentive to young people to act up to the cameras. Those in the media who deny any

imitative element in crowd crime are talking humbug. To oppose police censorship is one thing; to refuse self-restraint is irresponsible and invites that censorship. This is the sort of matter on which the Press Complaints Commission should have a view, had it not denied itself the scope so to do.

In each of the recent cases small groups of youths turned defiant when told by the police to stop whatever anti-social thing they were doing. Apart from that the factor all three had in common was the housing estate itself. Many such estates have become uncomfortable places to live. Unruly youths on the streets have made them worse.

The way the estates were first populated means they now have an excess of one distinct age-group, 16-25. Post-school, pre-marriage, too young to move away, too old to be distracted by swings and roundabouts: here is a concentration of a group ripe for trouble.

What are short-term problems for the police are long term for politicians: in this case, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. Tower blocks must be demolished, which will cost money. Other sensible management policies are less expensive. Housing Action Trusts and transfers of estates to housing associations will bring estate management closer to residents. Housing should be allocated so as to broaden the age mix. Still more should be done to encourage home ownership, and, if possible, persuade owner-occupiers that these estates can still be tolerable places to move to.

None of these measures will guarantee social peace. There may be more riots. If so, the professionalism of the police in extinguishing them will again be severely tested. They deserve public confidence, not verbal brickbats from ignorant critics adding to the real brickbats thrown on the streets.

## AIDING DEMOCRACY

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, takes pride in Britain's policy of linking aid to "good government". He has just been lecturing the erstwhile Soviet Union on the subject. He is pressing the European Community to adopt British guidelines in allocating aid funds. Next month, John Major will do the same at the Commonwealth heads of government conference in Harare. Britain's criteria are that recipient countries should adopt sound market-friendly, economic policies; accountability of government, secured by a free press and free, pluralistic, elections; and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Yet these criteria cannot be selective, least of all selective in application or to white-ruled states. Yesterday Mr Hurd said that the Soviet republics should allow free travel and respect minority rights before getting help. He now begins official visit to Kenya and Zimbabwe, neither of which measure up to modern Russia in their respect for pluralism and civil liberty.

Ten years ago, before one-party rule was officially introduced, Kenya was relatively well-governed by Africa's standards despite endemic official corruption. British governments pretend that it is. Now President Daniel arap Moi fiercely refuses to countenance reform at a time when democracy is being introduced across many African states, from Angola to Benin and Cape Verde, once lagging far behind him.

Only last month the overseas minister, Lynda Chalker, singled Kenya out as a relatively open society, tolerant of human rights. That was shortly after church leaders, unionists, lawyers and former cabinet members called off a prayer meeting and march for multi-party democracy under threat of arrest. At the same time a 329-page report was published by Africa Watch documenting the Kenyan government's use of torture, harassment and detention of campaigners for democracy, and political

manipulation of the judiciary. Shortly before Mr Hurd arrived in Nairobi Mr Moi banned a pro-democracy rally planned for October. He has dismissed the domestic debate on political pluralism as "rubbish" and denounced leaders of the campaign as members of a "sinister plot". This week one of Kenya's bravest lawyers and editor of the *Nairobi Law Monthly*, Gitobu Imanyara, has been prevented from leaving the country to collect the prestigious Nieman Foundation award for courageous journalism.

Mr Imanyara is an ardent supporter of the British "good government" campaign. He wants Britain to stop aid to Kenya until the government amnesties political exiles, honours the guarantee of freedom of association in Kenya's constitution, permits free travel and allows voters to choose their government in free elections. The British Foreign Office, as usual, pleads "quiet persuasion" and argues that Mr Moi has curbed some of the government's worst excesses. This fear of offending Mr Moi is based not on the president's contention that Kenya cannot "afford" multi-party democracy because of its delicate tribal balance, but on anxiety to protect convenient defence agreements, more than £1 billion in British investments and Kenya's large British community.

The lesson of the collapse of communism is that dissent cannot be extinguished by repression, only temporarily suppressed. Mr Moi's opposition to change is a recipe for instability. His one-party system is tribal in its discrimination. Britain has influence in Kenya out of proportion to its aid (which is dwarfed by Japan's) or its investments. But it shrinks from taking the side of Kenya's democrats. Even the Commonwealth Secretariat, for years so obsessed by apartheid that it ignored its own members' disdain for civil liberties, now wants the Harare summit to accept linkage between aid and human rights. Mr Hurd should do the same.

## REASON AND THE CLERKS

The 1980s were the golden years of right-wing think tanks in Britain. They wielded an influence which, though individually unquantifiable, was collectively enormous. They forced the left to re-examine its doctrines. The Institute of Economic Affairs was the tabernacle of the free-market creed.

In the past the main role of these think tanks was to provide a home for intellectuals on the margins of the establishment. They had their share of cranks and fanatics, but they also nurtured gifted individualists without whose work the history of those years would have been quite different. These market missionaries never quite converted the political parties, the civil service and the universities. Yet they transformed the idiom and extended the bounds of permissible political discourse. At the EA's monthly Hobart lunches, crossing intellectual picket lines was compulsory.

Each think tank had its own character. The IEA was the least political, the Centre for Policy Studies the most connected, the Adam Smith Institute the most libertarian, the Institute of European Defence and Strategic Studies the most anti-communist and the Bruges Group the noisiest. They fought each other and let free-wheeling rivals (the Downing Street policy unit was close to them, the Conservative Research Department less so) for influence and allegiance. They had one thing in common. All saw that with Margaret Thatcher their time had come.

When she fell last year, there was a rapid clearing of the decks. John Major was the kind of politician whose rise had depended on the inundation of the Tory party with free marketeers. Two directors of think tanks,

Graham Mather of the IEA and David Willetts of the CPS, endorsed him even before he was elected leader.

But the scene has changed. Central Office is again a force to be reckoned with under Chris Patten. The prime minister's policy unit has become less radical under Sarah Hogg. The Bruges Group's sniping at John Major made its leadership, which in the person of Lord Harris of High Cross overlapped with that of the IEA, look clumsy.

At the IEA itself a dispute about policy — prompted by a letter in *The Times* of last February by six economists criticising government monetary policy — brought deeper sources of acrimony to the surface. Was the IEA still beholden to the Tories, in the tradition of its founders Lord Harris and Arthur Seldon? Had Mr Mather compromised the institute's independence? Or was he extending its influence into the new era, as Lord Vinson and Sir Aian Peacock maintain?

Whoever is right and whoever comes out on top (not necessarily the same thing), this schism looks like a symptom of decay. Iconoclasm rarely survives in an institution for as long as the IEA's 30 years. But just as free market thought is driving all before it in the heartlands of socialism, here in Britain fourth-fifths of academic economists are still sceptical of privatisation. The change from Mrs Thatcher to Mr Major was partly one of generation. The IEA cannot rest on the laurels of its founders. If it falls foul of the Charity Commissioners in its partisanship, or of internal factionalism, others will take up its flag. But in whatever guise, the free-market think tanks still have to keep up-to-date the old insights.

## Call for end to six-year remand

From Mr M. J. Kingston and others

Sir, We wonder if anybody remembers Lorrain Osman, who has been held in prison, on remand, in London, for longer than John McCarthy's cruel incarceration in Beirut.

Mr Osman will soon be beginning his seventh year on remand in Brixton prison, with no real hope of being freed in the near future. We understand that this 60-year-old may require serious heart surgery.

The period of imprisonment without a trial is bizarre in itself, but there are a substantial number of serious failings in the case against Mr Osman.

According to a previous governor of Hong Kong, the prosecution of Mr Osman was brought "for reasons other than those of justice"; the prosecutor who was dealing with the case is serving an eight-year jail sentence for corruption; the principal crown witness has been disgraced in the Hong Kong courts and has admitted massive bribe-taking; an official crucially connected to the request to prosecute has been directly linked to a murder and a potential bribe of US\$50 million; 65 per cent of the relevant evidence has been lost; and a substantial amount of evidence obtained by the Hong Kong authorities in the USA was done so illegally.

We hope that your readers will agree that this intolerable state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. Lorrain Osman should be freed now.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. KINGSTON, HUGH CASSON,  
MARGARET DRABBLE,  
PAUL EDDINGTON,  
MONICA FURLONG,  
LESLIE GRIFFITHS,  
RONALD HOAR,  
MICHAEL HOLROYD,  
SOPHIE JEREMY THORPE,  
JILL TWEEDIE, PATRINE WEBB,  
ARNOLD WESKER,  
17/19 Park Lane,  
Poynton, Cheshire,  
September 7.

## Doctors' risks

From Mr Arnold Simanowitz

Sir, If the findings about "defensive medicine" reported in *The Lancet* (report, September 6) are correct, they disclose a worrying situation not so much regarding litigation but in so far as the conduct of the medical profession itself is concerned.

What it discloses is that doctors could put mothers at risk in the belief that they might protect themselves from legal action. The doctors are, of course, mistaken: indeed, if such a test results in morbidity or mortality, they are at risk of being sued for carrying out the test.

What is now urgently needed is a concerted effort by medicine's leaders and teachers to explain to all members of that profession that so-called "defensive medicine" can amount to negligence, gross professional misconduct, or both. The sooner the medical profession acts upon the advice given by Mr Roger Vickery, consultant orthopaedic surgeon and member of the council of the Medical Defence Union, that doctors "should be concerned not so much with the reduction of claims that might be made against us as with reducing the number of accidents that occur" the better it will be for doctors and patients.

Yours faithfully,  
ARNOLD SIMANOWITZ  
(Executive Director),  
Action for Victims of  
Medical Accidents,  
Bank Chambers, 1 London Road,  
Forest Hill, SE23,  
September 6.

## Hong Kong talks

From Lord Fanshawe of Richmond

Sir, As minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsible for British policy in Hong Kong from 1970-4, I write to support Mr Andrew Stuart's letter (September 9) and confirm his recollection of our policy in the early 1970s.

I well remember meetings and discussions on the file "The Future of Hong Kong", but not the "shudder" mentioned by Mr Stuart. Hong Kong prospered during the Seventies with dramatic commercial growth and improved social and housing developments under the skilled leadership of Lord Maclehoze. Sir Alfred Sherman (letter, September 5) should not rely on hindsight.

Confidence was the key factor in the 1970s, was vital in the 1980s and remains crucial today.

Yours faithfully,  
FANSHAW OF RICHMOND,  
House of Lords,  
September 10.

## Miners' lamps

From Mr Stanley J. Blenkinsop

Sir, Any suggestion that Geordies should be called Humphries (letters, September 10) should be stamped on. "Geordie" Stephenson, then an unknown, uneducated, semi-literate, self-taught engineer, produced several successful prototypes of a miner's safety lamp by trial-and-error experiments three months before the highly-trained scientist and London lecturer Sir Humphry Davy made any public announcement of his plans for a lamp in 1815. History has, of course, given the Metropolitan-based Davy, an expert in self-promotion, all the credit.

As Hunter Davies points out in his biography of Stephenson: "While the Davy lamp was swiftly adopted in every other coalfield in the country, the miners of the North-east stuck to what they'd had first, and preferred best, the Geordie lamp."

## Playing the phone number game

From Mr Adrian Fisher

Sir, I believe a major virtue of the new phone numbering system (report, September 6) is that it "will maintain geographical identity". To small businesses (and many private subscribers) this sacred cow is far less relevant than keeping the same number, regardless of changes of address over the years. Potential clients, both national and international, are not concerned what my current address is; but perhaps in three, five or ten years' time, their easiest way to make contact would be to use my present phone and fax numbers — if these have not changed.

Replies I have received from British Telecom (effectively still the monopoly supplier) is that its technology is not designed this way, so one would have to pay heavily to have all calls forwarded between exchanges.

This is marketing myopia. Until BT install technology that reflects the real demands of the modern market, it should provide onward forwarding at no extra charge, as an imaginative marketing initiative. After all, it charges a different rate for the same service at different times of day, so this initiative should not be ideologically impossible.

Moreover, this way the present one billion possible numbers would be enough for many more years.

Yours sincerely,  
ADRIAN FISHER  
(Chief Executive),  
Minotaur Maze Designs,  
7 Holly Bush Lane,  
Harpenden, Hertfordshire,  
September 6.

From Mr Rulf Neigenfind

Sir, The French have an even more ingenious telephone number system than indicated in your leader (September 6). When the national telephone system was changed a few years ago the long-distance dialling

codes were integrated in the local telephone numbers.

All numbers in the region of Bordeaux, e.g., now begin with "56", followed by six digits. To make a call from, say, Calais to Marseille, or from Lyon to Toulouse, you just have to dial an eight-digit local number. When calling from Paris to any place in the province one has to dial "16" first, and vice versa it is "161". So people here have actually only eight digits to remember, no matter where they want to phone to in the whole of France and Navarre.

Yours sincerely,  
RULF NEIGENFIND,  
11 rue du Bois de Boulogne,  
75016 Paris,  
September 6.

From Mr Alec Forty

Sir, When the first telephone exchange was opened at Coleman Street, London, in August 1879 it would have been impossible to reach Colonel Croll by dialling 7 and Chubb and Son by dialling 9. That exchange was manned by a telephone operator who would have connected one of the other nine subscribers to Colonel Croll or Chubb and Son on request.

The first public automatic telephone exchange in England through which subscribers could dial was, I believe, brought into service at Epsom on May 18, 1912. It used one of the first two-motion selector Strowger systems made by AE Co. of Chicago, and had an initial capacity of 500 lines. It was installed by the Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company of Liverpool, which had been newly-formed to exploit the Strowger patents within the British Empire.

Yours faithfully,  
ALEX FORTY,  
Chiltham, La Ferrière,  
Castel, Guernsey, CI,  
September 6.

## Transforming London Docklands

From the Chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation

Sir, Your leading article ("Docklands embarrassment", September 6) does not do London Docklands justice.

You implied that the development has been unplanned. This is not so. What has been essentially different about the planning of Docklands, even taking account of the Enterprise Zone on the Isle of Dogs, is that the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), as local development control authority, has not sought to constrain the pattern of development within the rigid parameters of a statutory plan. Instead, it has sought to respond to developers' initiatives through the application of good planning principles. We believe that the Docklands' approach offers a useful and positive example to town planning elsewhere.

The results speak for themselves. Within ten years Docklands has been transformed from an area of long-term neglect and decay to a vibrant and attractive district which is changing the economic geography of London to the benefit of the whole of East London.

Expenditure of £1.1 billion by the LDDC since 1981 has levered in over £8 billion of private sector investment. Nor has this resulted in "top-sided commercial development", as your leading article alleges. Commercial development is a major element but 15,000 new homes have been built, too; the population has grown by 56 per cent; the stock of owner-occupied dwellings has risen from virtually nil in 1981 to over 40 per cent in 1991. The quality of the development, both commercial and residential, is its strongest selling point.

The strictures about transport and access are far too sweeping. The new road and rail infrastructure has either been put in place well before the development (as notably in the Royal Docks) or is being installed just ahead of it and in pace with the

occupation of buildings. The current difficulties with the Docklands Light Railway are essentially operational in character, not a result of any lack of planning. When London Transport has sorted them out and the DLR performs to specification, those who live and work in Docklands will have an excellent service.

Yours etc.,  
DAVID HARDY, Chairman,  
London Docklands Development Corporation,  
Thames Quay,  
191 Marsh Wall, E14,  
September 9.

From Mr Ron Dane

Sir, Contrary to what you imply, there were planning controls, even within the Enterprise Zone. In theory there was a relaxed planning regime, but, in actuality, as landlords, the London Docklands Development Corporation maintained very detailed planning control, often to the annoyance of developers who thought they had a free hand.

At its conception transport economists were against the idea of London Docklands having any railway. It was only the corporation who pressurised the government to allocate £77 million. The real change occurred when Canary Wharf came along and one could argue on that decision. The development of the LDDC has been a huge success although in social terms there must be question marks.

For the future we must look at the east Thames corridor (report, August 19) and hope that the government will grasp the opportunities and lead the way in building an infrastructure which will allow confidence to be built so that the public and private sectors can provide new developments to take London into the 21st century.

Yours faithfully,  
RON DANE,  
British Urban Regeneration Association,  
33 Great Sutton Street, EC1,  
September 9.

## Baltic gold

From Mr John C. Nattrass

Sir, I am overjoyed that the regaining of independence for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is finally a reality. I am, however, dismayed to read (leading article, "Baltic dawn", September 7) about the problem we have created over the gold reserves deposited in London.

I was previously unaware of the 1967 deal crediting the reserves to the Soviet Union which is outrageous and, as you point out, completely inconsistent with the British refusal to recognise the 1940 annexations. A more classic example of

Perfidious Albion is hard to imagine. That the government and Bank of England permitted this expropriation must surely now be a matter of major embarrassment.

I agree that "Rather than oblige the Baltics to take Britain to the European court, John Major should graciously settle up now". This would indeed be the only honourable and satisfactory rectification of this misappropriation of funds.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN C. NATTRASS,  
29 Ollerbarrow Road,  
Hale, Altrincham,  
Cheshire,  
September 7.

Geordie accent was so thick that he sometimes needed an interpreter when he spoke away from Tyneside, especially when talking about his Geordie lamp.

Yours sincerely,  
STANLEY J. BLENKINSOP,  
Wingrove, 57 Maclesfield Road,  
Witlows, Cheshire,  
September 10.

From Mr M. F. Guthrie

Sir, Prudhoe in County Durham? (T. B. Martin, September 6). Hadaway w' yersel: aall Geordies knaa Prudde's in Northumberland! Yours faithfully,  
M. F. GUTHRIE,  
Gate Cottage, Park Shield,  
Fourstones, Hexham,  
Northumberland.

## Holidaying with child-free zones

From the Chief Executive of the English Tourist Board

Sir, Olivia James's article about "child-free zones" (September 6) was amusing. But there is a more serious side to this issue; holidays and travel are obviously important for families — and to this country's economy. In fact, in 1990, family groups accounted for about 18.5 million holiday trips in England and an estimated £2.5 billion was spent.

The British may have a blanket intolerance towards children that is in marked contrast to the attitude encountered abroad, be it France or the United States, where children are welcome at hotels and restaurants, and respond accordingly. It seems the British are kinder on dogs than children.

By law hotels are open to everyone, regardless of colour, nationality, etc., yet it appears to be quite acceptable to discriminate against children who presumably are not even protected by the law.

The English Tourist Board resists this attitude most strongly. We want to see better facilities provided for families on holiday with children — so that adults and children can enjoy themselves together or apart at will. Yours faithfully,  
JOHN EAST, Chief Executive,  
English Tourist Board,  
Thames Tower, Black's Road,  
Hammersmith, W6,  
September 9.

From Mrs Angela I. Russell

Sir, Having recently had a bad experience at an expensive and well-known hotel in Bournemouth, I will almost certainly try to stay at hotels in the future that may decide to follow the ideas of the Hyatt group to keep children in special areas.

My husband and I intended to spend four days in this particular hotel. On our first evening our dinner was spoiled by children running around the dining room. Later they were constantly riding in the lift (in spite of a notice stating "no unaccompanied children") and seemed to be running races in the corridors.

The next morning at breakfast, children were not only screaming but throwing bread rolls at each other while their contented parents fondly watched. The swimming pool, not unexpectedly, was filled with children, which was one thing, but they also had inflatable rubber beds, water dragons, etc. (again, in spite of a notice near the pool stating no balls, water beds, etc., in the pool) and it was impossible even to try to swim. We checked out as quickly as possible.

I am a mother and do not object to children but feel that more hotels should follow the Hyatt group or specifically state that their hotel caters mainly for children and then people wishing to avoid this kind of hassle could decide for themselves. Also, the local tourist boards should have a list of hotels which prefer not to take children.

Yours faithfully,  
ANGELA RUSSELL,  
89 Halstead Road, Wanstead, E11,  
September 6.

## Mortgage arrears

From Miss Nicola Harries

Sir, "Fending off the bailiff" (leading article, September 9) assumes that many of those facing eviction are unemployed and claiming DSS benefits. This is far from the truth. In my experience, the majority of lending institutions demonstrate tolerance towards those who contact them as soon as they are compelled to seek DSS assistance and will often reschedule arrears of at least three months' payments.

A large proportion of home owners facing court proceedings are not in receipt of benefits but have struggled to maintain mortgage repayments which have escalated beyond their worst fears. Those who give up the struggle to make ends meet and claim benefits at an early stage stand a better chance of avoiding repossession.

It would be interesting to know the percentage of repossession of ex-council houses purchased under the "right to buy" scheme so actively promoted by this government.

Yours faithfully,  
NICOLA HARRIES,  
Raggett Tiffen & Harries  
(Solicitors),  
10 Castle Street, Ongar, Essex,  
September 10.

## Early warning

From Mr Wilfrid Newland

Sir, For insurance purposes I required a copy of my wife's birth certificate issued in Hamilton, Scotland, on the 5th day of November, 1919. I'd perusing this document I was startled and impressed to read on the back the following notation — "every person who shall wilfully destroy, obliterate, erase or injure any entry... shall be deemed guilty of an offence and on conviction thereof be liable to be punished by transportation for a period not exceeding seven years..."

Transportation! In 1919! Was it (or is it) only the Scots who were (or are) liable to be transported? My 1917 birth certificate carries no such horrendous warning. But that certificate was issued in England. Yours faithfully,  
WILFRID NEWLAND,  
Whinlatter, London Road,  
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire,  
September 10.







Almighty God,  
praying Him to  
with His divine  
just and equitable  
from tyrannical

purpose of reheating and sustaining the people from each other, standing at the same time the arms of our nations, then a general warming, and afterwards a con-

\_\_\_\_\_ Met. 911356



# Masterpiece alight with truth

## NEW RELEASES

**BATHROOM INTERLUDE** (19): A hilarious, amusing look at a Mexican household from a privileged position behind the bathroom mirror. As part of the London Latin-American Film Festival (running until September 19). Video (VHS) £37.95.

**CLOSE MY EYES** (18): Sexual games between brother and sister one long hot London summer. Wildly portrayed by writer-director Stephen Polakoff and an excellent cast (Sasha Reeves, Clive Owen, Alan Rickman). Video (VHS) £37.95.

**JUNGLE FEVER** (18): Surly, over-the-top Spike Lee film about interracial relationships, with striking moments among the jungle. Directed by Spike Lee. Video (VHS) £37.95.

**OSCAR** (PG): Stephen Polakoff's directorial debut as a film about a gangster trying to go straight. Amusing and well-paced. Directed by Stephen Polakoff. Video (VHS) £37.95.

**TETSUO: THE IRON MAN** (18): Japanese office worker turns into metal monster. Hilarious and surreal. Directed by Shinya Tsukamoto. Video (VHS) £37.95.

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## CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (o) on release across the country.**

### CURRENT

**DIVA** (18): Jean-Jacques Beineix's 1982 film about a woman's life in the Paris underworld, revived in a new print, a highly influential exercise in sexual politics. (o) Screen on the M1 (01-438 3551).

**DYING YOUNG** (18): Foul, manipulative warps with Julie Roberts in a love story over a young man dying of leukemia. Director, Joel Schumacher. (o) Screen on the M1 (01-438 3551).

**EDWARD SCISSORHANDS** (PG): Tim Burton's disturbing fantasy about a boy with scissors for hands at large in America. Directed by Tim Burton. (o) Screen on the M1 (01-438 3551).

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**PARIS TRUTH** (18): Dennis Hopper's surreal Southern most stands accused of murder. Powerful, atmospheric drama from Peter Dinklage's novel. With Barbara Hershey, Joe Harris, director, Stephen Polakoff. (o) Screen on the M1 (01-438 3551).

**PHOSPHORUS BOOKS** (18): Peter Greenaway's version of The Tempest with John Gielgud's Prospero. (o) Screen on the M1 (01-438 3551).

**TERMINATOR 2: JUDGMENT DAY** (18): Good robot Arnold Schwarzenegger battles his robot Robert Patrick. A fine sequel for special effects. (o) Screen on the M1 (01-438 3551).

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## Three Birds Alighting on a Field Royal Court

**TIMBERLAKE** Wertmüller's best-known play to date is *Our Country's Good*, and a variation on that title, perhaps *Our People's Good*, could be the subtitle of her new play. Again she focuses on the puzzling, shamefully unfashionable notion of the good, but her characters are this time more intricately tangled in the web of their past lives and present attachments. There is the world of high finance, high society and high prices for art, and the anxiety of Biddy Andreas, the wealthy aristocrat, about what it means to be a good person is set against the anxiety of a number of other people about what it means when art is declared, by dealers mostly, to be good.

Is an entirely flat, white and, for all one can tell, unpainted canvas good because someone has paid £1.2 million for it? The auction of this object, worthless by any sane standard, provides the splendidly funny opening of the play, with Allan Corduner giving his first of a succession of sharply observed comings. Soon afterwards comes the accurate depiction of another of the breed, a dealer who, lumbered with stock he cannot shift, in this case an empty frame, murmurs to a potential buyer "Possibly his best". This time it is Robin Soana, puckering his crab-apple face with a grimace of ineffable refinement.

These targets may be familiar but this makes Wertmüller's devilishly adroit go at them all the more of an



Conflict of art and money: Clive Russell as the embittered artist (left) confronts investor Harriet Walter

achievement: there is a freshness in the way she pins their pretensions on to the wider context of uncertain or business values.

One of these uncertainties is England itself. Biddy (Harriet Walter) has married a tremendously rich Greek, cunningly played by David Bamber to show posture, voice and assumptions just faintly wrong. Desperately he wants to be English, to picnic on the correct bit of the lawn at Glyndebourne, to join the correct club — though the name of the one he does, join, the Progress Club, is one of the

author's rare misjudgments of tone. Hereabouts the play gathers within itself the Greek myth of Philoctetes, exiled on his island with how and stinking wound and tempted from it by the "god" Neoptolemus. Biddy finds beauty in the unfashionable landscapes of an embittered painter (a gruff, believable Clive Russell) and seeks to bring him back to the world.

Wittily staged by Max Stafford-Clark on a set from Sally Jacobs that places elegant Perspex screens against a wall-high Constable drawing, the play is subtle, many-layered, funny

and bang up to the minute. And at the centre of the choice cast is Harriet Walter as the superbly bred Biddy, poised but never quite at ease since Benenden. Passion forces itself through her strangled vowels, anguish is signalled by her drooping shoulders, and in her jutting chin. Credibly sensitive female aristocrats are a rarity in the theatre, but Walter and Wertmüller have created one and paved her the spokeswoman for honour and truth.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## An Ideal Husband Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh

**EDINBURGH'S** Royal Lyceum emerges from a year's closure and a £3 million facelift with a glass portico, a much improved, roomy foyer, new bars and conference rooms, splendid backstage facilities and a production of Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* which gets some things right, but a few crucial things wrong. Chief among those is Gregory Smith's design for Sir Robert Chiltern's house in Grosvenor Square, which emerges looking like a peach-carpeted entrance hall of a *fin de siècle* hotel.

For some reason, the stage is flanked by metallic panels and backed by a ludicrous and inappropriate Royal Flint nude. Smith's design for Lord Goring's den of decadence in Act III is, however, much better, with heavy art nouveau panels.

*An Ideal Husband* is perhaps Wilde's most interesting play, posing penetrating questions about the impossible standards of morality the British public expects from those in political life. Unfortunately, he resolves his moral dilemmas by a series of accidents and coincidences which eventually beggar belief, and what begins as a tough thriller ends up as a sentimental mess relieved by a few welcome intimations of *The Im-*

## The Sleeping Beauty Sadler's Wells

**IF ONLY** Victor Smirnov-Golovnov had resources even halfway comparable to those enjoyed by the Bolshoi Ballet, what a *Sleeping Beauty* he could offer. He shows a real feeling for Petipa's work and his modest production for Moscow City Ballet is better than many a grander version.

Having to make do with only two main settings, he ingeniously uses a little addition between scenes and introduces a suggestion that the Lilac Fairy is presenting the story. Only in the role of Prince Florimund, and at the end of the Red Riding Hood duet, does he fall in with the modern heresy that more steps are desirable at the expense of character. Otherwise his version respects tradition.

The production's occasional lapses from grace are those more or less universal in Russia — having to manage without the notions which Sergeyev brought to the West. Even passages that look unfamiliar are not necessarily less authentic for that; for instance, the dance for the Fairies. The company's one serious weakness seems to be a lack of good actors for the minor roles, but the staging

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## Shakes up for that as far as possible with imaginative ideas such as

Catalabute's early anxiety about having left someone off the invitation list. Carabosse's swirling, capering glee at her evil spells and her comically gruesome final collapse. Ludmilla Semenyak, appearing as Aurora on Tuesday, made Aurora a pretty porcelain princess: crisp, light and delicate but lacking emotion. In Rose Adagio, concentrating on her dances, she could not bring herself to cast a glance at her four suitors, which was unfair to the lively and strong Messrs Mamrenko, Blonsky, Ivanov and Troshchenko. Even Gorbachev's handsome, attentive Florimund hardly bettered. The home team, however, has features to offer. Irina Prokopenko is a stylish and confident Princess (a pity about her earlobes), and Natalia Yakovleva has an excellent line and strength that needs only to soften her stern expression to be a superb Lilac Fairy. Svetlana Fedotkina's bubbling merriment for the White Cat, and Jewels quartet and the prologue joins maintain a high standard, quality rewarding in the ensemble acting: lively, stylish and cohesive. After a disastrous start, the National Ballet Orchestra rose to a steady pace. Perhaps the omission of a pantomime music was not such a bad idea in the circumstances.

JOHN PERCTAL

## BBC SO/Davis Albert Hall/Radio 3

**THIS** year's Proms have been rich in commissions, and the season's final world premiere, Hugh Wood's *Piano Concerto*, turned out to be a work of considerable substance. Wood has written a concerto in traditional three-movement form — sonata, variations, rondo — in which the pianist is cast conventionally as virtuoso hero;

Rachmaninov brought up to date, as it were. But Wood has a fertile imagination of his own, and it has been fired by the personality and formidable technique of the new concerto's dedicatee and magnificent soloist, Joanna MacGregor, sometime his composition student. He has also, of course, mastered his own language, an engaging interplay of melody, lyricism and intellectual organisation.

At the heart of this particular piece is the Fifths song "Sweet Lorraine", a theme which the second movement's variations lead towards rather than stem from, and which provides a touching and slightly sentimental

focus of reflection. The song's presence also helps to spread a bluesy harmonic feel through both this movement and the entire piece, while some of the gorgeous sounds and colours in the variations recall Bartók's nocturnal flutterings.

By contrast, the first movement is an imposing edifice, its grandiose gestures counterbalanced by sweeter passages, thick with notes yet spacious in effect, ranging wide over the instrument's compass. And far from being a simple, glittering romp to the finishing post, the often vibrantly synopocated finale picks up threads

from both of its predecessors and weaves them into subtle if invigorating patterns. Sometimes the BBC Symphony Orchestra did not quite reflect crispness and fire shown by MacGregor, but on the whole Andrew Davis conjured a confident and well-banded performance. He was perched too pretty in his approach to Subert's Third Symphony, but he owed a solid and awesome sculpture from the notes of Nielsen's Fifth Symphony.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Arts features, page 15

## ENTERTAINMENTS

### OPERA & BALLET

**COLLEGIUM** 01 836 2161 or 071 444 4444. The Collegium is a group of young musicians who perform a variety of music, including classical, contemporary and folk. They are currently performing a series of concerts in the city.

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE** 071 444 4444. The Royal Opera House is a world-famous opera house, currently performing a series of operas by Verdi, Puccini and Wagner.

**SADLER'S WELLS** 071 444 4444. Sadler's Wells is a contemporary dance company, currently performing a series of dances by choreographers such as Twyla Tharp and Alvin Ailey.

**MOSCOW CITY BALLET** 071 444 4444. The Moscow City Ballet is a world-famous ballet company, currently performing a series of ballets by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and Stravinsky.

**THEATRES** 071 444 4444. A list of theatres and their current productions, including the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the Royal Opera House.

### THEATRE

#### Answers from page 22

**GAY-YOU** (c) A narrow flat-bottomed boat with outrigger and masts, from the Vietnamese *ghe hoi*. "He escaped down the Mekong by hanging under the masts on the back of a gay-yau."

**POCHOIR** (c) A form of colour stencilling, by hand, on a printed illustration, from the 19th century. "The unique colouring of Blake's *Jerusalem* was recently produced in facsimile by the pochoir process."

**DELUTOLOGY** (a) The hobby of collecting postcards, from the Greek *delto* (document) and *logos* (writing). "The hobby of collecting postcards, from the Greek *delto* (document) and *logos* (writing)."

**BOYC** (b) An agent, obstacle, problem, difficult to get to grips with, from the Norwegian *boyc*. "Blocking the path stood a huge boy, as ugly as a gargoyle leech by a drunken seaman for the adornment of a Methodist Chapel in one of the vilest suburbs of Leeds or Wigan."

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**Answers from page 22**



**CRANNED**

**6.00 The Channel 4 Daily**  
**9.25 The World at Your Feet.** The last programme of the series featuring walks along the world's great wilderness trails. Peter Hayden walks the Milford track in New Zealand's Fiordland national park (t). (Teletext) **10.25 Famous for 5 Minutes (t)**  
**10.30 As It Happens.** Michael Gough joins the RAF Falcons, the crack parachute team (t) **11.30 Mingo's Canine Mutiny.** Cartoon  
**11.45 Conference Report.** Live coverage of the speech by the leader of the Liberal Democrats Paddy Ashdown, MP  
**12.45 Approx Business Daily 1.00 Seaside Street**  
**2.00 The March of Time.** Murray Sayle introduces archive film of how General de Gaulle was portrayed as the saviour of France during the second world war (t)  
**2.30 Channel 4 Debuting from Doncaster.** Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races  
**4.30 Countdown (s)**  
**5.00 Wilko the Wisp.** Cartoon  
**5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show.** A version of *Blind Date* with soap opera stars being matched with sporting personalities  
**6.00 The Time Tunnel: The Revenge of Robin Hood.** Sci-fi series about two scientists caught in a time warp. This week they find themselves in Sherwood forest with Robin Hood  
**7.00 Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather  
**7.50 Current**  
**8.00 The Star, The Castle and the Butterfly.** The story of Prague from a Jewish angle. Rabbi Hugo Gryn revisits the city of his childhood and recalls the fate of his people from the time of the Crusades to the Nazi occupation



**Desert war: Whoopi Goldberg finds an unlikely ally (8.30pm)**

**8.30 Bugged Cats.**  
**9 CHOICE:** A much-loved feature film by the German director Percy Adlon has been adapted as an American sitcom starring Whoopi Goldberg as the put-upon owner of a cafe-cum-motel in the middle of the desert. Threatening to dump her no-good husband (Cleon Little), she finds an unexpected kindred spirit in a middle-aged matron (Jean Stapleton) who has just abandoned her spouse. Another show might find rich comic potential, not to mention pathos, in two women of different temperament having to make their own way in the world. This one settles for the familiar American strategy of relying on a volley of well-rehearsed gags and making up in pace and noise what it lacks in subtlety. Much of the noise comes from the studio audience, which may have found the proceedings funnier than the audience at home will do.

**9.09 Critical Eye: Grand British Limited.**  
**9 CHOICE:** Garth Crooks, formerly of Spurs and Charlton, hosts a revealing programme report on his fellow black footballers. Things have changed for the better since the 19-year-old Paul Davis, the only black player at Arsenal, had either to join in the racist jokes or be accused of having a chip on his shoulder. Clubs such as Everton and Leeds United have taken commendable initiatives to stamp out racial abuse by spectators. But black players are still given a hard time by crowds and few black fans go to watch football. An Wright tells of being sent a bullet in the post, just before making his England debut. The next test will be the appointment of the first black manager. The candidates include Cyrille Regis and Luther Blissett. They should not bother applying to Crystal Palace, whose chairman, Ron Noades, wonders whether blacks have the necessary character for the job

**10.00 Film: High Season (1987)** starring Jacqueline Bisset and James Fox. A thin drama of an expatriate British community living on a Greek island whose way of life is threatened by tourism and the arrival of a British clan on the run. Directed by Clara Pope

**11.50 The Craig Ferguson Show.** Stand up comedian Craig Ferguson recalls his life as he prepares for a big night at the Glasgow Pavilion. With Peter Cook, June Whitfield and Frankie Howard

**12.50 State Down Under: Swimming.** An award-winning short drama about a 12-year-old girl making a video of her life. Followed at 12.50 by *A Song of Air.* A home movie is the catalyst for this surrealisation of the relationship between a woman and her father. Ends at 1.25

**NBS: (s) indicates stereo**

**€5.00** Eurozone Football Roundup 7.00  
NFL Today 8.00 Power Hour Wrestling 9.00  
Australian Rugby League 11.00  
Football Roundup 12.00 Australian Rules  
Football

**EUROSPORT**

• **View the Asstra satellite.**  
10.00 Arsenal Gymnastics 4.00 Basketball  
Basket 6.00 Football News 5.00 Eurosport  
News 7.00 Arsenal Gymnastics 6.00 Mountain  
Bike 8.30 Equestrian Setback 9.30  
Football: Eurocup 19.00 Summary 18.00  
Eurozone News

**SCREENSPORT**

• **View the Asstra satellite.**  
7.00am Eurobikes 7.30 Sport de France 8.00  
Eurosport Sport 8.30 US PGA Golf Tour 9.30  
American Football 10.00 Surfing 10.30  
Unlimited Hydroplane Racing 11.00 Major  
League Baseball 1.00pm 4 Man Beach  
Volley Ball 1.50 Judo 2.00 Judo Golf Tour  
4.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 4.00  
International Basketball 5.00 Sport AC Delco

**Challenge Skis Cat Racing 8.00** International  
Airlines 7.00 Motor Sport NASCAR  
8.00 Inside Thrax 9.00 Spanish Soccer  
10.30 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 11.00  
Canada Cup Ice Hockey

**LIFESTYLE**

• **View the Asstra satellite.**  
10.00 The Great American Gameshow  
11.00 Coffee Break 11.30 Everyday Workout  
11.50 Great Travels with Norm Orleans  
13.0pm Lord Jerry Reaches 1.05 Style File  
1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.40 The Edge of  
Night 2.05 Video Visions 2.30 Lifestyle Plus  
3.00 Dynal Pictura's Lifestyle Garden 3.10  
White Shadow 4.00 Tim Bantz 4.10 Beverley  
Hills Bantz 4.40 The Great American  
Gameshow 5.00 The New Video Shopping  
Programme 8.00 Close 10.00 The Self-  
Video Shopping Programme 12.00  
Sustained Action


**MTV**

• **View the Asstra satellite.**  
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

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**PROPER GOON**

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**NSPCC**

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If you don't make one, your family could face many worries when, especially just after your death, they are at their most vulnerable.

By making a Will you can be sure your loved ones are cared for. To help you do this the NSPCC has prepared a helpful free booklet called *Caring For Their Future*. It's simply written and tells you all about making or changing your Will.

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Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Caring For Their Future*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Ref. 910366





Humpback rider: Jack Straw, the shadow education secretary, helping to launch a seven-volume Oxford Children's Encyclopaedia by climbing on board a Siberian Bactrian camel named Johnny at St Edward's Roman Catholic primary school in Lisson Grove, London

## Gorbachev to pull out troops

Continued from page 1  
A statement issued by the European Commission yesterday said that the Soviet Union had requested food aid from the Community, including 5.5 tonnes of grain, 800,000 tonnes of meat and 900,000 tonnes of sugar. It said the request had been addressed to the commission president, Jacques Delors.

A report issued by Tass said that the food had been requested partly in grants and partly as loans for the fourth quarter of 1991 and the first quarter of 1992. Soviet estimates put the cost at between \$6 billion and \$7.25 billion.

The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, also made a pitch for European Community aid when he received delegates to the human rights conference yesterday. He said that without aid "the republic will be unable to get on its feet".

In another development, Mr. Silev, chairman of the interim committee for the economy, said he would be leaving his post next Monday.

## Green belt helps push London down to 23rd in big-city league

By Robin Young

LONDON, once the world's biggest city, comes only 23rd in the latest rankings, calculated by the French Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques.

The British capital, with a present population estimated at 7.7 million, is the only one among the world's 100 most populous cities to have succeeded in reducing its population since 1950. Then the population of London was reckoned to be nine million.

London's relatively low standing in the population league now is not due entirely to British restraint in breeding, though that will doubtless have helped it avoid the fate of tropical cities such as Abidjan, which has multiplied its population by 35 times since 1950. Lagos, where numbers have increased thirtyfold, or Kinshasa, where there are now 20 times the numbers there were 40 years ago.

Just as crucial to London's modest performance is the green belt policy, which has

surrounded the city with open countryside. The French define cities as being areas of uninterrupted urban construction, and on that basis calculate that even Paris is considerably larger than London, taking 16th place with a population of 9.3 million.

The French award the title of most populous city in the world to Tokyo, with a population of 24 million. In second position they place Central Megalopolis, the

North American conurbation centred on New York and Philadelphia but extending uninterruptedly through six states from Springfield in Massachusetts to northeast Maryland.

The French identify Central Megalopolis as the most extensive built-up area in the world and estimate its population at 23.9 million. In third place they have São Paulo with 17 million, ahead of Mexico City with 16.9 million.

The French figures thus have the same four cities in the four top places as do the United Nations estimates published earlier this year, but in different order. The UN has Mexico City first with 20.2 million, Tokyo second with 18.1, São Paulo third with 17.4, and Central Megalopolis fourth with 16.1.

There is no promotion for London in the UN estimates, though. The UN's figure for the city's population, at 7.4 million, is actually lower than that arrived at by the French, and leaves London in exactly the same position in the league table, still 23rd.

The French observe that Tokyo crowds its millions into half the space occupied by Mexico City, and about a sixth of the room occupied by Central Megalopolis.

The French report that over the last four decades the populations of sprawling urban areas have developed more quickly in the southern hemisphere than in the north.

**The world's 25 most populous cities**

City	pop (millions)	City	pop (millions)
Tokyo	24	Manila	10.9
Central Megalopolis	23.9	Osaka	10
Sao Paulo	17.4	Paris	9.3
Mexico City	16.9	Shanghai	9.2
Seoul	15.3	Chicago	8.1
Los Angeles	13.5	Bangkok	8.1
Moscow	11.9	Delhi	8.2
Kinshasa	11.8	Karachi	7.9
Buenos Aires	11.6	Lagos	7.2
Bombay	11.6	London	7.7
Cairo	11.3	Taipei	7.3
Rio de Janeiro	10.9	Istanbul	7.2
Jakarta	10.9		

## Lawyers call the shots for Martina

Continued from page 1

For Mr. Loftin at the time. Ms. Nelson, aged 43, met Ms. Navratilova, aged 34, at a tennis tournament in Fort Worth in 1984. The blonde tennis star soon fell in love with the carefully manicured older woman, a former model who sports gold earrings and a hairdo fit for a character from *Dallas*.

The two moved in together, sharing houses both in Fort Worth and the jet-set watering hole of Aspen, Colorado. In 1986 they videotaped themselves signing the non-marital cohabitation agreement which Ms. Nelson now claims entitles her to half of the tennis star's earnings in the time they lived together. When the tape was shown in court during a pre-trial hearing earlier this week, it reduced both women to tears.

After their separation in February, Ms. Navratilova reportedly offered Ms. Nelson \$1 million. But her former lover insisted she would not discuss any figure lower than twice that amount, and cut off from the couple's bank accounts, filed suit.

Money, however, now no longer seems to be the problem. At a meeting in the jury room after the court rose on Tuesday night, the two women appear to have come to terms on the amount, thought to be significantly lower than \$2 million.

"Neither of us ever wanted this to happen," Ms. Nelson said. "It has, and we're in it, and I think that we would both like to see the pain and the suffering stop so that we can both recover from it and get on with our lives." She told a reporter that the two sides were very close and that money was not at issue.

Linda Dozoretz, Ms. Navratilova's publicist, explained that Ms. Nelson "substantially reduced her economic expectations but has not yet acknowledged the invalidity of the non-marital cohabitation agreement".

Yesterday's early morning talks appeared to founder purely on the separate dispute over Mr. Loftin. Ms. Navratilova is apparently intent on preventing Mr. Loftin, who worked for her several times from 1984 to 1987, from recovering his 30 to 40 percent contingency fee if his client obtains a out-of-court settlement.

## Tell us, Des, just what is The Big Idea?

Conference sketch

Matthew Parris in Bournemouth

Every party needs a big idea. During a address on Monday by Charles Kennedy, Mr. Kennedy's big idea was Charles Kennedy. A speech yesterday from campaign manager Desmond Wilson suggested that Mr. Wilson is the big idea.

Tomorrow we may discover from Paddy that it was Paddy all along but thus far I incline to Mr. Kennedy. A Kennedy speech tends, however gently, to lift the sensibilities of its audience. A Wilson speech tends, however sneakily, to drag them down. You are never far from Mr. Wilson, from yet another Cecil Parkinson joke.

Besides, Kennedy shunned AutoCue. If there were a "No AutoCue Party" I should join it. As they carted in the two stowaway machines (so Des could get intelligently from side to side, ever-fluent in Irish), we knew we were in for AutoGush.

The morning had been dull. A debate on the eddy confirmed what grows clearer: that there is no connection in logic between the Lib Dem leadership and the ordinary membership.

Yesterday, members approved proposals or pensioners that would set about a thousand billion pounds. Free transport, licences, gas and electricity connections, heating, chiropody... nothing so that was proposed failed to be carried. As Fabian socialism was piled upon Sixties corporatism, topped with a generous dollop of Swedish welfareism, the reform party simply and clapped. Paddy will ignore it, of course. Paddy will talk to anyone. He is pumped more hands than the Queen Mother. Ty love him. What more do they ask?

Then Robert M. Lennan, MP, opened debate on electoral reform. "The changes we are discussing," droned a thoughtful Scot, "are a process, not an event." The same could be said of Macmillan.

But not Desmond Wilson. Des is an event, not a process. Occupying a void somewhere between Bryn Gould and Rolf Harris, his performances are all act and movement. But mov

ment where? ... And we're not (camera left), I repeat not (camera right), interested in talking about balance of power...

After more of this, he stopped. (camera left) "We have something we want to say to the people of Britain (camera right) and we're going to say it..."

Go on then, Des, say it. "So I come to the key question: what are we planning to say?"

You tell us, Des.

"We have to project one, clear vision... exciting, valid, relevant..."

Sure, Des, but of what? Mr. Wilson then launched in to another attack on Tories and Labour, and, having finished, paused. "But, Mr. Chairman, what's our big idea?"

Well?

"Let's be clear, first, where we'll find it."

Getting warmer, Des.

"So what's the message..."

We're waiting, Des.

An extended passage on the Berlin Wall yielded to further attacks on the Tories, P & O, smoking, and Barclays Bank. Leaving the planet, briefly, Mr. Wilson spoke of the future of the whole earthy environment. But something troubled him...

"Mr. Chairman, someone, sometime, has to tell the people the truth. And - we're going to do it!"

He didn't. Continuing a while, he suddenly announced: "There is in this country a deep desire for leaders who will tell the truth about tomorrow!"

Mr. Wilson was beginning to sound more like a New Zealand weather forecaster than a British politician. Tomorrow's a tricky one. Des. Why not start with today?

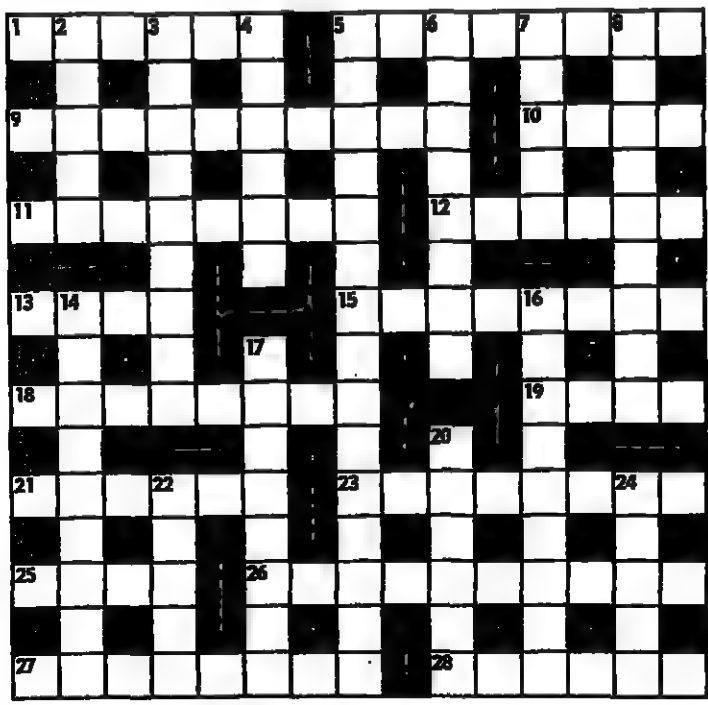
Suddenly, and in the dying moments of his speech, Des was gripped by the very honesty he had advocated. "What am I talking about?" he gasped.

There was a ghastly silence. His AutoCue read: "What am I talking about?"

But we knew just what he meant.

Conference reports, page 6

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,709



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- ACROSS**
- 1 Irish investment in advertising has decreased (6).
  - 5 Reason and method for making a raised footpath (8).
  - 9 Labour trick almost confused one promoting revolution (10).
  - 10 A part in "Breed", say (4).
  - 11 This trade mark is hard to display (8).
  - 12 It supplies cars to shooting men covered by guarantee (6).
  - 13 The arm, they say, of the ladies' man (4).
  - 15 Thoroughly wet god detailed to accompany a goddess (8).
  - 18 Man gets food and support in the Palace (8).
  - 19 Twister has no trouble with rent (4).
  - 21 A man for Falstaff, say (6).
  - 23 National ball (8).

- DOWN**
- 2 Sportsman on the river becoming more profane (5).
  - 3 Volunteers to destroy natural archipelago (9).
  - 4 "Treacher, Rapine, and lust" (Donne) (6).
  - 5 Many cats can't cha-cha, sadly, when wrestling (5-2-5-3).
  - 6 Honourable element in football supporters? (8).
  - 7 One of the misunderstandings in a comedy (5).
  - 8 Reptile has a drink coming up a hill (9).
  - 14 Eurasian rose in a gentle potpourri (9).
  - 16 See person about taking back pictures - it needs muscle (9).
  - 17 Not material for a naval man's treasure (8).
  - 20 Just the tool for a puzzle (6).
  - 22 Proceeding - not yet knocked down (5).
  - 24 Concur in a Green Party project (5).

**Solution to Puzzle No 18,708**

DOWNCAST SOLDUR  
POSITIVEVETTING  
STEPHEN MOISTEN  
BLANDORICIN  
UNION HALLMUS  
MURDERER  
BECOME STATURE  
CONCURRENCE  
HUNTINGDONSHIRE  
WETTER REPAIRED

**Concise Crossword, page 19**

## WEATHER

Most places will be dry, although rain or drizzle is possible over Northern Ireland and southwest Scotland. The best of any sunshine will be over southwest England. Eastern England and most of Scotland, away from the southwest, will have a mainly dry day with sunny periods. Temperatures close to average. Outlook: rain spreading to most parts and becoming windy in the North.

### ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humid
Alexandria	28	SE	10	70
Athens	28	SE	10	70
Bombay	28	SE	10	70
Buenos Aires	28	SE	10	70
Cairo	28	SE	10	70
Calcutta	28	SE	10	70
Colon	28	SE	10	70
Hong Kong	28	SE	10	70
London	28	SE	10	70
Los Angeles	28	SE	10	70
Moscow	28	SE	10	70
New York	28	SE	10	70
Paris	28	SE	10	70
Rio de Janeiro	28	SE	10	70
Sao Paulo	28	SE	10	70
Shanghai	28	SE	10	70
Singapore	28	SE	10	70
Tokyo	28	SE	10	70
Washington	28	SE	10	70
Zurich	28	SE	10	70

### DOMESTIC

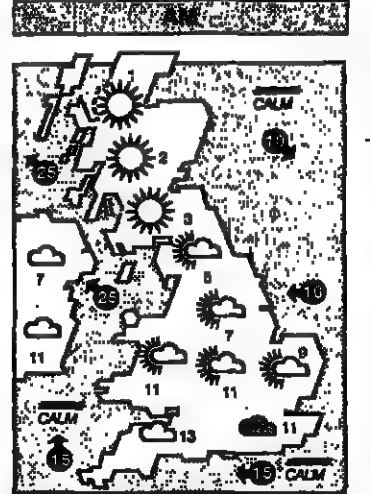
City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humid
Aberdeen	28	SE	10	70
Belfast	28	SE	10	70
Birmingham	28	SE	10	70
Bristol	28	SE	10	70
Cardiff	28	SE	10	70
Edinburgh	28	SE	10	70
Glasgow	28	SE	10	70
Leeds	28	SE	10	70
Liverpool	28	SE	10	70
Manchester	28	SE	10	70
Newcastle	28	SE	10	70
Nottingham	28	SE	10	70
Sheffield	28	SE	10	70
Sunderland	28	SE	10	70
Swansea	28	SE	10	70
Torquay	28	SE	10	70
Weymouth	28	SE	10	70
Wolverhampton	28	SE	10	70
Wrexham	28	SE	10	70

### TOURIST RATES

City	Rate	City	Rate
Australia	2.29	Belgium	2.14
Austria	2.10	Canada	2.10
Belgium	2.14	Denmark	2.10
Canada	2.10	France	2.10
Denmark	2.10	Germany	2.10
France	2.10	Greece	2.10
Germany	2.10	Italy	2.10
Greece	2.10	Japan	2.10
Italy	2.10	Norway	2.10
Japan	2.10	Spain	2.10
Norway	2.10	Sweden	2.10
Spain	2.10	Switzerland	2.10
Sweden	2.10	USA	2.10
Switzerland	2.10	Yugoslavia	2.10
USA	2.10		
Yugoslavia	2.10		

### FINANCIAL

City	Rate	City	Rate
Australia	2.29	Belgium	2.14
Austria	2.10	Canada	2.10
Belgium	2.14	Denmark	2.10
Canada	2.10	France	2.10
Denmark	2.10	Germany	2.10
France	2.10	Greece	2.10
Germany	2.10	Italy	2.10
Greece	2.10	Japan	2.10
Italy	2.10	Norway	2.10
Japan	2.10	Spain	2.10
Norway	2.10	Sweden	2.10
Spain	2.10	Switzerland	2.10
Sweden	2.10	USA	2.10
Switzerland	2.10	Yugoslavia	2.10
USA	2.10		
Yugoslavia	2.10		



London: 22°C at 11 am, 24°C at 1 pm, 26°C at 3 pm, 28°C at 5 pm, 30°C at 7 pm, 32°C at 9 pm, 34°C at 11 pm, 36°C at 1 am, 38°C at 3 am, 40°C at 5 am, 42°C at 7 am, 44°C at 9 am, 46°C at 11 am, 48°C at 1 pm, 50°C at 3 pm, 52°C at 5 pm, 54°C at 7 pm, 56°C at 9 pm, 58°C at 11 pm, 60°C at 1 am, 62°C at 3 am, 64°C at 5 am, 66°C at 7 am, 68°C at 9 am, 70°C at 11 pm, 72°C at 1 am, 74°C at 3 am, 76°C at 5 am, 78°C at 7 am, 80°C at 9 am, 82°C at 11 pm, 84°C at 1 am, 86°C at 3 am, 88°C at 5 am, 90°C at 7 am, 92°C at 9 am, 94°C at 11 pm, 96°C at 1 am, 98°C at 3 am, 100°C at 5 am, 102°C at 7 am, 104°C at 9 am, 106°C at 11 pm, 108°C at 1 am, 110°C at 3 am, 112°C at 5 am, 114°C at 7 am, 116°C at 9 am, 118°C at 11 pm, 120°C at 1 am, 122°C at 3 am, 124°C at 5 am, 126°C at 7 am, 128°C at 9 am, 130°C at 11 pm, 132°C at 1 am, 134°C at 3 am, 136°C at 5 am, 138°C at 7 am, 140°C at 9 am, 142°C at 11 pm, 144°C at 1 am, 146°C at 3 am, 148°C at 5 am, 150°C at 7 am, 152°C at 9 am, 154°C at 11 pm, 156°C at 1 am, 158°C at 3 am, 160°C at 5 am, 162°C at 7 am, 164°C at 9 am, 166°C at 11 pm, 168°C at 1 am, 170°C at 3 am, 172°C at 5 am, 174°C at 7 am, 176°C at 9 am, 178°C at 11 pm, 180°C at 1 am, 182°C at 3 am, 184°C at 5 am, 186°C at 7 am, 188°C at 9 am, 190°C at 11 pm, 192°C at 1 am, 194°C at 3 am, 196°C at 5 am, 198°C at 7 am, 200°C at 9 am, 202°C at 11 pm, 204°C at 1 am, 206°C at 3 am, 208°C at 5 am, 210°C at 7 am, 212°C at 9 am, 214°C at 11 pm, 216°C at 1 am, 218°C at 3 am, 220°C at 5 am, 222°C at 7 am, 224°C at 9 am, 226°C at 11 pm, 228°C at 1 am, 230°C at 3 am, 232°C at 5 am, 234°C at 7 am, 236°C at 9 am, 238°C at 11 pm, 240°C at 1 am, 242°C at 3 am, 244°C at 5 am, 246°C at 7 am, 248°C at 9 am, 250°C at 11 pm, 252°C at 1 am, 254°C at 3 am, 256°C at 5 am, 258°C at 7 am, 260°C at 9 am, 262°C at 11 pm, 264°C at 1 am, 266°C at 3 am, 268°C at 5 am, 270°C at 7 am, 272°C at 9 am, 274°C at 11 pm, 276°C at 1 am, 278°C at 3 am, 280°C at 5 am, 282°C at 7 am, 284°C at 9 am, 286°C at 11 pm, 288°C at 1 am, 290°C at 3 am, 292°C at 5 am, 294°C at 7 am, 296°C at 9 am, 298°C at 11 pm, 300°C at 1 am, 302°C at 3 am, 304°C at 5 am, 306°C at 7 am, 308°C at 9 am, 310°C at 11 pm, 312°C at 1 am, 314°C at 3 am, 316°C at 5 am, 318°C at 7 am, 320°C at 9 am, 322°C at 11 pm, 324°C at 1 am, 326°C at 3 am, 328°C at 5 am, 330°C at 7 am, 332°C at 9 am, 334°C at 11 pm, 336°C at 1 am, 338°C at 3 am, 340°C at 5 am, 342°C at 7 am, 344°C at 9 am, 346°C at 11 pm, 348°C at 1 am, 350°C at 3 am, 352°C at 5 am, 354°C at 7 am, 356°C at 9 am, 358°C at 11 pm, 360°C at 1 am, 362°C at 3 am, 364°C at 5 am, 366°C at 7 am, 368°C at 9 am, 370°C at 11 pm, 372°C at 1 am, 374°C at 3 am, 376°C at 5 am, 378°C at 7 am, 380°C at 9 am, 382°C at 11 pm, 384°C at 1 am, 386°C at 3 am, 388°C at 5 am, 390°C at 7 am, 392°C at 9 am, 394°C at 11 pm, 396°C at 1 am, 398°C at 3 am, 400°C at 5 am, 402°C at 7 am, 404°C at 9 am, 406°C at 11 pm, 408°C at 1 am, 410°C at 3 am, 412°C at 5 am, 414°C at 7 am, 416°C at 9 am, 418°C at 11 pm, 420°C at 1 am, 422°C at 3 am, 424°C at 5 am, 426°C at 7 am, 428°C at 9 am, 430°C at 11 pm, 432°C at 1 am, 434°C at 3 am, 436°C at 5 am, 438°C at 7 am, 440°C at 9 am, 442°C at 11 pm, 444°C at 1 am, 446°C at 3 am, 448°C at 5 am, 450°C at 7 am, 452°C at 9 am, 454°C at 11 pm, 456°C at 1 am, 458°C at 3 am, 460°C at 5 am, 462°C at 7 am, 464°C at 9 am, 466°C at 11 pm, 468°C at 1 am, 470°C at 3 am, 472°C at 5 am, 474°C at 7 am, 476°C at 9 am, 478°C at 11 pm, 480°C at 1 am, 482°C at 3 am, 484°C at 5 am, 486°C at 7 am, 488°C at 9 am, 490°C at 11 pm, 492°C at 1 am, 494°C at 3 am, 496°C at 5 am, 498°C at 7 am, 500°C at 9 am, 502°C at 11 pm, 504°C at 1 am, 506°C at 3 am, 508°C at 5 am, 510°C at 7 am, 512°C at 9 am, 514°C at 11 pm, 516°C at 1 am, 518°C at 3 am, 520°C at 5 am, 522°C at 7 am, 524°C at 9 am, 526°C at 11 pm, 528°C at 1 am, 530°C at 3 am, 532°C at 5 am, 534°C at 7 am, 536°C at 9 am, 538°C at 11 pm, 540°C at 1 am, 542°C at 3 am, 544°C at 5 am, 546°C at 7 am, 548°C at 9 am, 550°C at 11 pm, 552°C at 1 am, 554°C at 3 am, 556°C at 5 am, 558°C at 7 am, 560°C at 9 am, 562°C at 11 pm, 564°C at 1 am, 566°C at 3 am, 568°C at 5 am, 570°C at 7 am, 572°C at 9 am, 574°C at 11 pm, 576°C at 1 am, 578°C at 3 am, 580°C at 5 am, 582°C at 7 am, 584°C at 9 am, 586



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1991

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● DEGREE RESULTS 32  
● SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 33  
● SPORT 34-38

## British Coal to shed 900 jobs

BRITISH Coal Corporation is to close Merton Colliery, County Durham, with the loss of 900 jobs. The closure is the ninth announced this year, and will bring the total number of mining jobs lost to more than 7,000.

British Coal said Merton Colliery had been losing £1 million a month. The Corporation is under pressure to close pits and cut costs in order to achieve prices competitive with imported coal, at about £30 a tonne, before its contracts with electricity generators expire in March 1993.

Courtauld's, the paints to packaging materials group, announced the closure of its cellophane film plant at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, with the loss of 375 jobs and the transfer of production to Bridgewater, Somerset, where 46 jobs will also go. The company blamed competition from alternative materials.

## Costain falls

Shares in Costain dropped 16p to 112p, as the company reported a 71 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits to £5.7 million. Although earnings per share fell to 1p, the company is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 4.75p but gave warning that the total dividend would be determined next spring.

Tempus, page 27

## Bunzl down

Bunzl, the paper and plastic distribution and manufacturing group, has announced a 32 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits from £30.4 million to £20.6 million for the six months to end-June. The interim dividend is cut from 4.3p to 2.9p.

Tempus, page 27

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.7247 (-0.0033)  
German mark 2.9294 (-0.0039)  
Exchange index 91.2 (-0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2068.1 (-3.8)  
FT-SE 100 2626.6 (-4.2)  
New York Dow Jones 2973.61 (-8.94)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 22504.79 (+93.21)

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISER  
Portsmouth Sund 302 1/2p (+4p)  
Gold Greenless 170 1/2p (+10p)  
Herring 580p (+10p)  
Chenning 372 1/2p (+8p)  
Lamont 380p (+10p)  
EIS Group 519 1/2p (+11p)  
Charter Const 581 1/2p (+10p)  
Redford 688 1/2p (+10p)  
Redditt & Colman 403 1/2p (+8p)  
Island Frozen 598 1/2p (+9p)  
FALLS  
British Aerospace 444 1/2p (-63p)  
General Accident 581p (-11p)  
Great Western Ste 81p (-10p)  
Bunzl 90 1/2p (-13p)  
Ocean Group 365 1/2p (-13p)  
Harrison Crofield 150 1/2p (-11p)  
Costain Group 111 1/2p (-16p)  
Royal 380 1/2p (-10p)  
Thomson Corp 735p (-10p)  
Closing Prices...Page 29

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/2%  
3-month interbank 10 1/2%  
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4%  
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%  
Federal Funds 5 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5.25-5.25%  
30-year bonds 10 1/4-10 1/2%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£/\$ 1.7247  
£/DM 2.9294  
£/Sfr 1.4861  
£/FF 6.7700  
£/Yen 164.50  
Ecu Index 1.25  
ECU 100 685.00  
ECU 100 685.00  
SDR 1.7883  
London for market close

## OLD

London: New York  
£/\$ 1.7247  
£/DM 2.9294  
£/Sfr 1.4861  
£/FF 6.7700  
£/Yen 164.50  
Ecu Index 1.25  
ECU 100 685.00  
ECU 100 685.00  
SDR 1.7883  
London for market close

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Sep) \$20.00 bid (\$19.95)  
RPI: 133.8 July (1987-100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.8 July (1987-100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Group warns of £100m losses for the year after interim profits slump to £86m

# Bae rebuilds with £432m rights issue

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Aerospace has launched a deeply discounted £432 million rights issue to rebuild cash balances ravaged by recession in non-defence businesses and a growing thirst for working capital as Airbus production rises.

The two-for-five rights issue was accompanied by a 41 per cent slump in pre-tax profits for the half to end-June, to £86 million, and a warning of losses of up to £100 million at the year end. Professor Sir

Roland Smith, the chairman, forecast profits for the year to end-December, at "not less than £150 million," - before anticipated exceptional restructuring costs of £250 million. Brokers were expecting a £300 million full-year profit.

Sir Roland said: "The expected recovery in a number of key market sectors in which we operate has not been forthcoming."

Difficult trading conditions in the first half would continue to the year's end, he said, but he hoped for an improvement in some areas in 1992. The

interim dividend is unchanged at 8.9p. Bae shares slumped 63p to 445p, compared with the 380p rights price.

When the current programme of job cuts finishes in 1993, the company will have spent £970 million, and more than 20 sites will have closed. Rover's withdrawal from the American market will lead to a £45 million extraordinary charge.

Dick Evans, chief executive, blamed four factors for Bae's difficulties. American demand for regional airliners had failed to strengthen as expected, and the market remained oversupplied. Customers had deferred delivery dates into the second half, and no regional aircraft were delivered by Bae in the first six months. The business made a £16 million trading loss on sales of £839 million.

Property prices in Britain had failed to recover, stemming profits growth at Bae's Arlington subsidiary, which specialises in turning redundant aerospace sites into business parks. First-half trading profits were £15 million.

Rover, Bae's car manufacturer, had been squeezed during the key sales month of August by Ford and General Motors discounts. First-half losses were £45 million (£33 million profit) on unchanged sales of £1.87 billion.

Finally, the dynamics business had run into a hitch on one of its fixed price contracts for the defence ministry. The Gulf war, however, contributed to a £100 million rise in trading profits from defence, to £273 million.

Group sales, at £4.87 billion, were little changed, but the interest charge more than doubled to £100 million as advances from defence and civil aircraft customers were converted into work in progress. The proceeds from the rights issue will reduce underlying gearing, net of advances, to 36 per cent. They will also enable Bae to continue to hedge dollar revenues from its civil aircraft programme on the currency markets. Forward sales of dollars against aircraft to be delivered between now and 1996 already topped \$7.5 billion.

Bae, which builds the wings as a 20 per cent partner in the Airbus consortium is increasingly tying up capital and investment in Airbus work.

Dudley Eustace, Bae's finance director, said an increase in shareholders' funds was essential to reassure banks covering the company's currency risk on civil aircraft.

Thanks largely to acquisitions, Bae's dependence on defence sales has been reduced from 69 per cent in 1986 to 42 per cent. Defence still remains the core business. Mr Evans said revenue from the Al Yamamah defence programme for Saudi Arabia have already topped £8.3 billion, and that Saudi sales are expected to be £2 billion a year for the rest of the decade.

Comment, page 25



Saudi sales: Dick Evans, of Bae, expects £2bn a year from the Al Yamamah programme

## Lonrho steps up pressure for Brent Walker deal

By MATTHEW BOND AND ANGELA MACKAY

BRENT Walker continued to teeter on the brink of receivership last night after reports that the company's banks had set a 48-hour deadline for its £1.5 billion refinancing to be completed sent the shares to an all-time low of 11p.

With the company's refinancing plans struggling to make headway, Lonrho stepped up pressure for its rival proposals for Brent Walker to be accepted. Yesterday, Hambros Bank wrote to the Brent Walker board, confirming Lonrho was prepared to advance up to £20 million, while it carried out its own due diligence.

However, Lonrho's insistence that this £20 million should rank ahead of bank debt in the event of Lonrho not proceeding and Brent Walker going into liquidation is unacceptable to the banks.

Standard Chartered, which heads Brent Walker's banking syndicate, said the banks are only interested in Lonrho becoming involved after their own refinancing proposals have been agreed.

Standard denied a deadline had been set for this agreement but the denial came too late to prevent Brent Walker's shares closing at a record low.

The deadline reports began after a meeting between the steering committee of Brent

Walker's banks and rebellious bondholders, which include Lonrho, failed to bring the two sides any closer together. Yesterday's meeting came after the bondholders rejected the banks' own proposals. Following that rejection the bondholders, led by Hambros

Bank, wrote to Standard Chartered to make it clear that they felt the banks and Brent Walker "had not pursued all the avenues open to them". In particular, the bondholders felt Lonrho's proposal had not been given sufficient consideration.

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## Britain opposes EC merger moves

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government is to oppose any moves by the European Commission to reduce sharply the threshold above which large corporate mergers within the EC are referred to Brussels.

At present, mergers have to be referred to the EC's task force, rather than be dealt with by national competition authorities, if they have a Community dimension, for which one criterion is that the combined turnover of the companies exceeds Ecu5 billion (about £3.7 billion).

EC officials look set to recommend that this threshold be lowered to Ecu3 billion.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EC competition commissioner, is likely to accelerate the review of the threshold levels, which came into force last year, bringing it forward a year to 1992.

But John Redwood, corporate affairs minister, warned yesterday that the

British government would oppose any such attempt to lower the threshold, and would also oppose any review of the operation of the EC's merger policy that concentrated only on the threshold aspect.

During the negotiations on setting up the EC's merger controls, Britain, France and Germany opposed the threshold level being set so low, arguing that few mergers at such a value had any genuine Community-wide interest.

Ministers believe that the Commission at the moment does not have the support within the EC for any large-scale reduction in the threshold, such as that now being promoted. Since any change would have to be approved by qualified majority voting, they believe that any such proposal would be likely to fail unless a large northern member state changed its view.

Mr Redwood said of the likely proposal: "Our position is clear - we do not want it. We are not persuaded there are a lot of mergers below Ecu5 billion

with a substantial Community dimension."

He added: "It will be a hard-fought battle." A reduction of the qualifying threshold on this scale would, he said, lead to greater complications for companies, including those from the UK, trying to grow through merger with, and acquisition of, companies in the rest of Europe.

Reducing the threshold would, he claimed, lead to an increase, rather than a decrease, in the workload of national competition authorities such as the Office of Fair Trading in the UK, but he was sceptical about whether it would lead to any corresponding increase in their authority.

National bodies would simply have more work trying to keep up with the case-by-case precedents being set by Brussels on mergers which might not directly involve UK companies but whose legal and other implications might be of considerable significance for proposed UK mergers within the EC.



Newmarch: not pleased

## M&G will stay with Prudential

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Prudential has decided not to sell Mercantile & General, its reinsurance subsidiary, after a review of the company. The decision contrasts with earlier statements from the company that M&G was a non-core business, and with persistent reports that it was for sale.

Michael Newmarch, the Pru's chief executive, said in a statement: "M&G is capable of delivering higher returns than have been obtained in the past. We believe it is in the interests of shareholders for us to retain ownership to optimise its value."

He was speaking as the Pru announced pre-tax profits of £170 million in the first half of the year, up 41 per cent and higher than most expectations in the City. The group increased its interim dividend by 9 per cent to 3.8p.

The results are the first since the group disposed of the last of its loss-making estate agency businesses, and show the resilience of the profits from life business, and strong

growth at Jackson National, the Pru's American life company. Losses from general insurance fell from £71.3 million to £54.2 million.

Mr Newmarch said he was not pleased with the results, but they demonstrated that the group was making progress. "They show the dependability of our long-term business."

Tempus, page 25



Profit up 6.5% with higher margins and buoyant sales in America and Europe

## Cadbury Schweppes keeps its fizz

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

HIGHER trading margins and improved performance in France and America helped Cadbury Schweppes to increase pre-tax profit by 6.5 per cent, to £111.5 million, in the 24 weeks to June 15. Sales rose only marginally, by 0.6 per cent to £1.42 billion, reflecting the economic downturn in Britain and elsewhere.

Overall performance has been flat in Britain. Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages, the British soft drinks subsidiary owned 51 per cent by Cadbury Schweppes, suffered a volume downturn of 9 per cent, but increased profit on the back of

higher margins, up from 6.4 per cent to 7.6 per cent. In the confectionery business, by comparison, margins were down from 9.7 per cent to 9.1 per cent. America saw a 25.3 per cent rise in beverage trading profits, helped by a substantial increase in sales of Crush soft drinks.

The company, where Dominic Cadbury is chief executive, saw its European business boosted by last year's £125 million acquisition of a majority stake in the soft drinks interests of Saurat Perrier, of France.

The deal turned Cadbury

Schweppes into France's second largest soft drinks group after Coca-Cola. The results were in line with analysts' expectations overall and for individual businesses and regions. Sir Graham Day, non-executive chairman, said they showed "the progress of the business despite difficult economic circumstances in many of our major markets and adverse exchange-rate movements". Capital expenditure grew by 7.7 per cent.

The results are unlikely to dampen the bid rumours that have dogged the company. Last year, General Cinema, previously thought to be a likely bidder, sold its 16.7 per cent stake, but there has been speculation about a bid by Philip Morris, the American group, which bought Suchard, the Swiss chocolate company.

Suchard was, also, at one stage, suspected of being interested in bidding. Cadbury Schweppes said in a statement that it was confident of satisfactory results for the full year. Half-year earnings per share were up 3.6 per cent to 10.16p. The interim dividend has been raised from 3p to 3.2p.



European boost: Dominic Cadbury, chief executive

## Paul bids for Caparo Industries

SWRAJ Paul, the entrepreneur, aims to take Caparo Industries, his publicly quoted engineering firm, private through a 64p-a-share offer for the minority shareholders.

Mr Paul said he was giving shareholders in the 21.6 per cent of the company not owned by Caparo Group, a Paul family-controlled business, the opportunity to realise their investments at a price well above that available on the stock market.

The shares have consistently underperformed the market since the 1987 market crash, largely due to the illiquidity of the stock. Mr Paul said that neither he nor Caparo Group was prepared to sell shares in Caparo Industries to improve liquidity. The two companies will merge if the offer is successful.

The offer, valuing Caparo Industries at £59.4 million, represents a 38 per cent premium to Tuesday's 46.5p closing price and an exit multiple of 11 times forecast earnings per share for 1991. The shares closed yesterday at 62p.

Caparo Industries also announced interim pre-tax profits of £5.3 million, down 41 per cent, for the six months to end June. The interim dividend has been cut to 1p (1.5p).

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Ofwat chief warns companies over prices

IAN Byatt, the director general of water services, has told water groups that unless they tell him by September 20 that they will forego voluntarily some of their permitted price rises for next year, to take account of lower than expected costs or delays in capital spending, he may adjust price limits for lower interest rates and tax advantages gained.

Mr Byatt can call for an interim adjustment of price limits on grounds of substantial cost variations from budget or from delays to capital spending, but has made it clear he will not initiate adjustments for lower interest charges if companies volunteer to put off price rises to account for other cost savings. South West Water, which faces the biggest costs from directives on bathing waters, confirmed at its annual meeting that it will ask for increases in its price limit as capital spending will rise by a further 50 per cent this year.

### Plaxton falls into the red

PLAXTON Group, the coachbuilder, made losses of £4.51 million before tax in the six months to end-June (£5.2 million profit). Losses included exceptional costs of £2.57 million for plant closures and redundancies, compared with last year's surplus of £2.44 million from disposals. The interim dividend is cut from 3p to 1p and will be paid from reserves.

### Caird rises to £3.11m

CAIRD Group, the waste management company, increased pre-tax profits to £3.11 million (£1.81 million) in the half year to end-June. Earnings were 2p a share (1.04p) and the interim dividend is 1.33p (1.2p) a share. John Ashton, non-executive chairman, said margins in the core waste business rose from 11.3 per cent to 19.2 per cent. Severn Trent holds a near-30 per cent stake.

### Scholey steps aside

SIR David Scholey is stepping down as chief executive at SGL Warburg and has appointed Lord Cairns as his successor to take on the day-to-day running of the merchant bank.

Sir David, often tipped to become the next governor of the Bank of England in 1993, is remaining as chairman, and will concentrate on planning the group's medium-term development and running the board. Lord Cairns, who was chosen as chief executive for his experience in both securities and corporate finance, is also to be deputy chairman of the group.

### Nurdin raises dividend

NURDIN & Peacock, the cash-and-carry wholesaler and retailer, lifted its interim dividend from 1.87p to 1.96p after returning taxable profits of £6.97 million for the half-year to July 1 (£6.65 million). Earnings were 3.87p a share, against 3.73p. Sales rose from £602 million to £647 million. New branches at Chester, Blackpool and Sheffield contributed to the increase.

### Iceland lifts to £20.3m

ICELAND Frozen Foods said refitted Bejam stores, acquired in a £230 million takeover in 1988, were achieving profit margins less than 1 per cent lower than in original outlets. In the half year to end-June, group pre-tax profits rose to £20.3 million (£17.6 million) on turnover up to £413 million (£339 million). The interim dividend is increased 2.65p (2.3p).

### Invergordon forecast

INVERGORDON Distillers forecast a 41 per cent increase in pre-tax profits this year, to not less than £32 million, in its defence against a £286 million bid from Whyte & Mackay. Earnings per share are expected to be 16.7p, up 38 per cent. Shareholders are promised a total dividend of 6.5p a share, up 30 per cent, and including an interim payment of 2.5p, which was announced yesterday together with first-half profits of £13.1 million (£8.2 million) before tax. Invergordon shares closed down 3p at 266p, against an offer price of 225p.

## Harrisons down 37% at £36.4m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the manufacturing and trading group, suffered a 37 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £36.4 million for the first half, largely as a result of the recession in the chemicals and building products industries.

The company underwent a major restructuring in the 1980s when it diversified away from the core plantations businesses into a range of new activities. However, the figures for the first six months of the year showed that the ramp of the plantations interests was one of the strongest performers. Profits were static at £5.1 million.

The chemicals division turned in operating profits of £16.4 million, a 42 per cent fall since the first half of 1990, but a 3 per cent improvement on the second half. The timber and building supplies division was also hard hit, suffering particularly badly in January and February. Operating profits fell by 42 per cent to £9.8 million. The only division to improve its performance during the half year was food and agriculture, which saw profits rise by 7 per cent to £16 million.

David Hopkinson, the outgoing chairman, said that there were still no indications of a recovery in the UK but that America was showing signs of an upturn.

The interim dividend is maintained at 3.6p and is covered only once by earnings.

## Ocean advances to £23.2m at half time

OCEAN Group, which now specialises in freight, contract distribution and offshore marine services, increased pre-tax profits by 3 per cent to £23.2 million for the six months to end-June on turnover up 19 per cent to £529 million.

The marine business, which mainly services the oil industry, increased operating profits from £11.3 million to £15.3 million, helped in part by a full contribution from Tees Towing, but the Gulf war hit the air freight business, and there was an unexpected drop in the much smaller waste management and pollution laboratory division. Currency movements also cost about £1.7 million on translation.

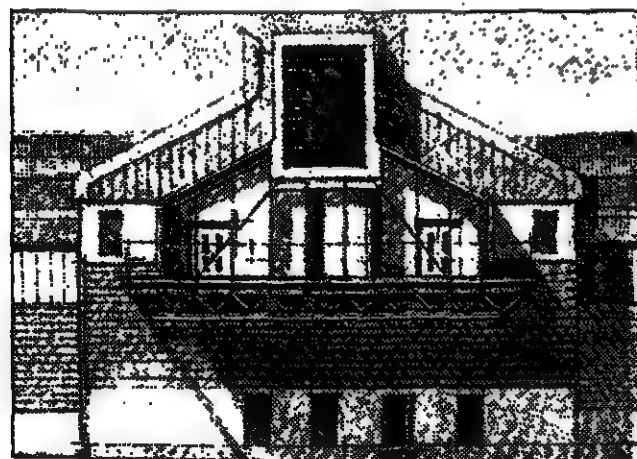
Earnings per share fell an adjusted 8 per cent to 11.8p, mainly as a result of the £80 million rights issue. The interim dividend rises to 4.71p per share against 4.67p a year ago or 4.49p adjusted for the discount element in the rights issue. Ocean expects satisfactory results for the year without any early improvement in trading conditions.

## CHB SHARE OFFER

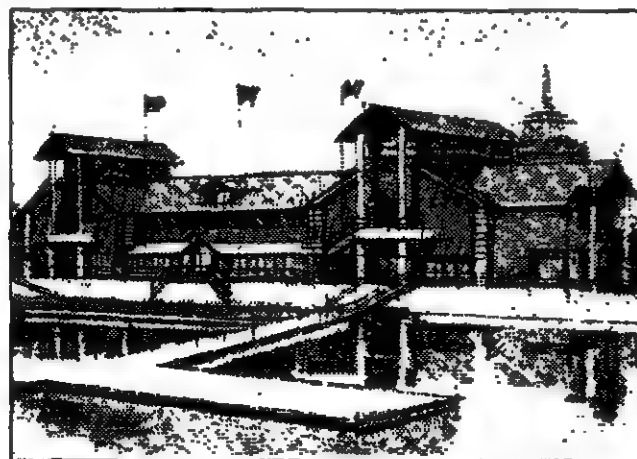
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Two award-winning houses built by Beazer Homes, the fourth largest house builder in the country and a division of CHB Group.



St Mary's Hospital, Isle of Wight was built by another division of CHB Group, Beazer Construction.



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Terminal and major road building projects in Malawi, Nepal and Thailand.)

While Beazer Property trades and manages investment and development portfolios.

Full details of the CHB Group and the share offer are contained in the prospectus, which should be available shortly.

To reserve your copy, without obligation, please complete the coupon.



## CONSTRUCTION & HOUSE BUILDING

Please send me, without obligation, a prospectus for the CHB Group Share Offer. (Complete in BLOCK CAPITALS)

Title (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms/Ms/Ms) Surname

Full forenames

Address

Postcode

Send to: CHB Group Share Office, Tempford Hall, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2BD.



# BAe dismisses the easy option

COMMENT

British Aerospace shocked the City yesterday. Least of the surprises was a much heralded rights issue. Worst was the realisation that trading appears to have deteriorated rapidly and immediate prospects are bleak.

Yet just a month ago, BAe's watchers in the City were confidently expecting that profits of close on £300 million were in sight for the full year. Now we learn that there will be no earnings at all, for the forecast full-year profit of £150 million will be engulfed by £250 million of rationalisation costs. Investors are uneasy. That much is clear from the 63p fall in BAe's share price yesterday to close at 44.5p. The shares have been on the slide for some days now as well informed rumours of a rights issue circulated with increasing certainty. But even as recently as last weekend the financial pages, quoting the usual analyst sources, were looking for far higher profits at the halfway stage than the £86 million which emerged yesterday. Monday's profits warning, just a couple of days before the interim announcement, was

highly unusual. Even the most senior of brokers could not recall such a statement from a company the size of BAe.

After the figures, there are plenty of grounds for taking a dim view of the rest of this year. It is clear that the company hoped its £67 million sale of property to Equitable Life would inject confidence into the market, maybe even mark the turning point of the current bear phase. No such luck. The bottom has yet to be seen and BAe wisely refuses to forgo equity value by further sales.

The company did not anticipate that its rivals in the car market such as Ford and General Motors would trigger fierce price cutting in order to shift stocks after the new registration mark came in at the beginning of August. Rover's strategy has been to reposition itself closer to the top of its market sectors concentrating on profitability rather than volume. Rover

refuses to play beggar-my-neighbour and lost market share heavily. There is no evidence yet that this has stabilised and therefore no grounds for confidence that Rover will make up the first-half losses quickly.

In commercial aircraft, Airbus profits are being swallowed wholesale by losses on regional aircraft. Appallingly tough trading conditions stem from the bankruptcy and dire financial circumstances in which many of America's smaller airlines find themselves. Ticket price wars translate into shrinking aircraft sales and downward pressure on prices. Nothing less than a wholesale rationalisation of capacity among competing manufacturers will settle this.

BAe has been losing cash at a rapid rate. Post the rights issue, BAe hopes it will be able to exist

within its existing borrowings for up to three years.

The positive message for shareholders, though, is that the company is refusing the soft option of cutting rationalisation and capital investment. This will produce sizeable benefits in time. But the dilutive effects of the share issue and uncertain timing of recovery in key businesses will hold the shares back for some time.

## No rights

National Westminster Bank's shareholders can breathe easily. The threat of a rights issue, although never strong, has vanished entirely with the bank's two preference share issues this week. Last night's sale of \$200 million preference shares

in America, and Tuesday's institutional placing of a £140 million issue leave the bank well placed to cope with any eventuality. The bank's risk-asset ratio, the measure of its capital strength, will rise to around 5.6 per cent, well above the Bank for International Settlements' 4 per cent minimum standard, and a level that most Japanese and American banks will envy.

A further \$300 million issue of American preference share is likely this autumn and will push the capital ratio up another 0.2 per cent.

Given that NatWest's bad debt provisions may have peaked, and that lending growth will be sluggish at best for the next two years, the concerted fund-raising operation should give the bank sufficient financial resources for some time.

NatWest's use of dollar-denominated capital gives it the ability to fund NatWest Bancorp, its American subsidiary, easily

without currency exposure. The two issues also demonstrate that banks still have considerable flexibility to raise capital. In two days, NatWest has raised £250 million from British institutions and American retail investors and attracted barely a ripple of comment.

If the bank had been foolhardy enough to try to raise a similar sum from its ordinary shareholders, it would doubtless have had to suffer fire, fury and a deep discount in order to be successful.

There is also a neat symmetry in NatWest's use of Salomon Brothers to assist in the British share issue. Salomon has been losing clients, including Her Majesty's Government, ever since its use of illegal bids in American Treasury auctions was revealed.

Who better to come to its aid in its time of need than NatWest, whose own investment banking operations were badly hit after the Blue Arrow affair? For its part, Salomon has demonstrated that it still has the contacts and the expertise to handle important securities placings.

# St Michael's guardian angel image dented by recession

While Marks and Spencer is tightening its belt, suppliers are feeling the squeeze

FOR most British manufacturers, supplying Marks and Spencer is akin to sporting a crest bearing the legend "By appointment to Her Majesty the Queen". The entry qualifications to the M&S club are exacting and membership is jealously guarded.

Even amid rumours of cut-backs and squeezes, many clothing suppliers say that they would rather have the high street giant as a customer than any other retail group. M&S had sales of £4.95 billion in the year to March and made profits of £603 million. It was one of the few high street chains to report a year-on-year increase and its assured survival at a time when other retailers are going under bodes well for suppliers.

But some feel the traditional loyalty between M&S and its suppliers may be melting in the glare of recession. Two long-standing suppliers announced this week that they face difficulties. SR Gent is closing three factories with the loss of 750 jobs and a further 325 redundancies are in the pipeline, and Ramar Textiles' shares were suspended amid worries about the group's refinancing.

Analysts perceive a change in the relationship. They argue that, in the past, M&S would have been more willing to support suppliers in difficulty. Extra orders would have been placed with them and every reasonable step taken to ensure survival.

The perception now is that M&S is cutting down on the number of suppliers it uses and only the strongest will survive. The paternalism for which it was renowned is fading.



Market realist: Richard Greenbury, M&S chairman

In April, M&S made 850 of its own staff redundant in the first large scale layoff since 1930. Richard Greenbury, the new chairman and chief executive, is no sentimentalist.

M&S argues that although the number of its suppliers has dwindled, it is largely because small suppliers have been absorbed by large ones. As far as suppliers in difficulty are concerned, the group says it looks at each case individually. It is most likely to help by accelerating a call-off of stock. That means taking suppliers' products into the M&S stores a week or so early and thus helping the suppliers' cash flow.

A spokesman for the group said: "We can occasionally

help suppliers with cash-flow problems but we are concerned that they should all be financially viable. We cannot bail companies out."

There has always been a love-hate relationship between M&S and its suppliers. Club membership ensures regular orders and confers a reputation for stability and quality. But M&S is known as an exacting customer. Quality control is rigorous and the group's high standards mean that it is sometimes difficult for suppliers to service other customers easily. It's ability to squeeze suppliers is legendary. When M&S decided not to pass on the VAT increase to its customers after this year's

Budget, it was the suppliers who absorbed 25 per cent of the cost. But the group denies it is ordering less. Orders for the first six weeks of autumn are 10 per cent up on last year. While suppliers are encouraged by M&S not to rely solely on it for business, there are a number who are over-dependent on the group. It could be argued that SR Gent is one of them. In the recession new customers are difficult to find and the problem of servicing an M&S competitor without upsetting M&S is sometimes a headache.

In addition to the downturn in high street sales and the problems Britain's textile industry is facing in terms of increased competition from the Far East, the clothing suppliers face the challenge of having to respond more quickly to customer tastes.

M&S is asking its clothing suppliers to deliver twice a week by 1993 instead of the current weekly delivery. M&S says it has had no adverse reaction and that what is good for the group is good for suppliers. But suppliers are loath to speak out against the group that ensures their livelihood. Quick response and "just in time" retailing puts great strains on small suppliers who are expected to produce extra quantities of best-selling lines within days.

M&S now sources 83 per cent of its products in the UK against over 90 per cent ten years ago and 99 per cent in the mid-Sixties. The company says it still buys 20 per cent of all British clothing manufactured in the UK and without its custom the UK textile business would not survive.

"We cannot open shops in Europe and the Far East and be so arrogant as to say we will not look at our manufacturing industry," the M&S spokesman said. Of the product sourced in the Far East, 80 per cent comes through UK suppliers. It is unlikely that the percentage of UK manufactured goods in M&S stores will fall below 80 per cent. But while suppliers of M&S, like those of other retail groups, are finding the going

much tougher, it is naive to lump them all together. M&S suppliers fall into two groups. There are those, such as Courtauld Textiles, Claremont Garments and William Baird, who by dint of their product specialism or high quality can give M&S a service it cannot get elsewhere and who will continue to flourish.

Then there are those who produce a wide range of products for M&S and compete with suppliers offering similar products. Analysts name SR Gent, JJ Dewhurst and Coats Virella as members of this group and consider them more vulnerable. But even they will tell you that no matter what the struggle, life inside the M&S club is preferable to life outside it.

GILLIAN BOWDITCH

## Part-time jobs for women slow down

GROWTH in part-time jobs for women, which had been strong, is falling back, according to an analysis of employment trends published today as the government announces another rise in unemployment.

City forecasts expect seasonally adjusted unemployment for August to have risen by 60,000, to take the overall level to about 2.4 million and the rate to about 8.5 per cent.

In advance of that, the Trades Union Congress says today that the rise in female part-time jobs - seen as a growth employment sector - is slowing markedly. Analysing government figures, the TUC says that the growth in such employment has fallen from 60,000 new jobs to 33,000 this year.

Looking at the five quarters from the start of 1990, the TUC says the number of full-time jobs lost totalled 489,000, with manufacturing industry still bearing the brunt of the recession, seeing 277,000 jobs lost over the period - 57 per cent of the total.

Claiming that the TUC's analysis shows significant

employment weaknesses in important sectors of the economy, Norman Willis, general secretary, says: "Without urgent government action, the number out of work will continue to grow towards 3 million."

The Employment Institute today puts forward a new proposal to reduce the numbers of long-term unemployed.

Calling for a new contract between the state and the individual, Richard Layard, economics professor at the London School of Economics, and John Philpott, the institute's director, press for a benefits approach to reducing unemployment.

They say that employers

should be paid up to £1,000 for hiring someone from a job club, and after 12 months the unemployed should be taken off benefit and given paid temporary work with such bodies as local authorities and hospitals.

They suggest this could cut unemployment by 355,000 over four years. Given the reduction in the cost of benefits, they say there would be a net saving of £520 million by then.

Alfred Marks, the recruitment agency, said yesterday that vacancies registered at its branches rose by 3 per cent last month compared with July, although Tony Martin, the chairman, said that the picture remained "very grim" on vacancies, with a 63 per cent drop compared with last year.

The Campaign for Work pressure group is to launch a new drive against the government's benefit-plus temporary work scheme, Employment Action, under which those on the scheme will be paid only their benefit plus £10 a week.

PHILIP BASSETT  
Industrial Editor

## PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION

FIRST HALF PROFITS UP 41 PER CENT TO £170 MILLION.

### INTERIM RESULTS 1991

	Half year ended 30 June 1991	Half year ended 30 June 1990	Full year 1990
	£m	£m	£m
<b>PROFIT BEFORE TAX FROM:</b>			
Long-term business	190.2	173.7	367.1
General insurance	(54.2)	(71.3)	(185.0)
Investment management	4.8	7.6	6.7
Unit trusts and PEPs	0.2	(1.0)	(1.2)
Estate agency	0.0	(23.7)	(33.7)
Shareholders' other income	29.0	35.0	89.9
<b>PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAX</b>	<b>170.0</b>	<b>120.9</b>	<b>243.8</b>
Tax	(68.8)	(35.5)	(132.5)
Minority interests	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)
<b>PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAX</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>111.2</b>
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	0.0	0.0	32.8
<b>PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS AFTER EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>144.0</b>
Transfer (to)/from revaluation reserve	(3.9)	3.4	5.9
Dividend	(71.1)	(65.0)	(191.8)
<b>TRANSFER TO/(FROM) RETAINED PROFIT</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>(41.9)</b>
Earnings per share	5.4p	4.6p	6.0p
Dividend per share	3.8p	3.5p	10.3p

Dividends will be paid on 28 November 1991 to shareholders on the register on 26 September 1991.

The results for the half years ending 30 June 1990 and 30 June 1991 are estimated and unaudited. The half year results should not be taken as a guide to the likely results for the year as a whole.

The Interim Report will be circulated to shareholders on 11 September 1991. Members of the public may obtain copies by writing to Prudential Registrars Ltd, 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP.

PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION PLC

Prudential Corporation profits for the first half of 1991 increased by 41 per cent over the corresponding period last year to £170 million. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 3.8 pence per share, an increase of nine per cent.

Against a background of difficult trading conditions, the first six months of 1991 have seen continued good sales performance in almost all markets worldwide. In long-term business, total revenue premium income rose by 24 per cent to £3.4 billion. In particular, single premium business in the UK grew by 20 per cent to £683 million, while gross revenue premiums in the US grew by 10 per cent despite the recessionary economic climate.

Profit performance from the long-term business has been satisfactory. Jackson National Life, our US subsidiary, increased profits by 80 per cent - a reflection of the increasing maturity of the business.

Jackson National continues to provide a high quality of service and competitive products through its 90,000 agents.

General insurance losses have reduced by a quarter.

Overall, premium increases have been combined with a determination not to pursue market share at the expense of profitability.

Plans to reduce costs and improve efficiency are in hand for the way in which we provide personal lines general insurance through our UK Home Service operation.

Sir Brian Currys, Chairman, summarises the position of the company in his report to shareholders:

"There remain many challenges for management. Actions continue to be taken to improve the competitiveness and efficiency of our businesses, which will be of benefit to shareholders, policyholders, and staff alike."



PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Pigeon power indicator

OUR appeal for bottom-of-the-cycle indicators has prompted another flurry of offerings. One correspondent sees omens in the size of London's pigeon population, another in the length of time it takes to travel by taxi at midday from Grosvenor Square to Moorgate. Christopher Joll, chief executive of Charles Barker Georgeson, the public relations firm, says a black cab driver informed him that, two weeks ago, he completed that journey in a record 12 minutes. In a more bumpy-ant economic climate, it would take at least 45 minutes. Simone Pearl, a City solicitor, has been monitoring the queue of taxis at Liverpool Street station each morning and claims that throughout the recession the queue has been so long that drivers have switched off their engines and even washed their cabs while waiting for a fare. That queue is now noticeably shorter, however, and the drivers no

longer have time to turn off the ignition. Only Edward Doran, managing director of Brandprint, a subsidiary of the Wace Group, remains unconvinced. He points out that it is in the interests of governing politicians to keep recessions as short as possible. "It is a fact that it took ours six to nine months to acknowledge that we were in a recession," he says. "It should follow that six to nine months after they claim it is over, then it will

be." Meanwhile, the Krug Grande Cuvee remains on ice...

### Soviet rental

FORMER Soviet Union president Leonid Brezhnev's palatial 14-bedroom, four-storey country mansion at Kislovodsk, in the Caucasus mountains, is being offered for rent through AMA, a British travel company, for \$24,000 a day. For that you have access to gardens, use of a helicopter and a sports complex with swimming pool, Finnish sauna and a movie theatre.

### RAFA appeal

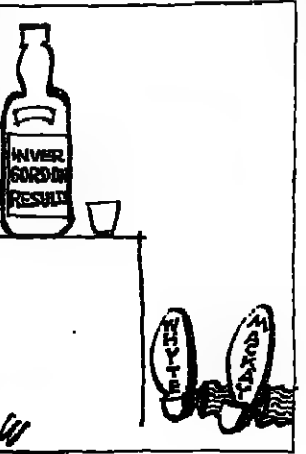
MARCUS Colby, the millionaire stockbroker, who will be celebrating his 88th birthday in two months and still works full time at W1 Carr, has just sent 300 wings appeal letters to London Stock Exchange and Securities and Futures Authority member firms in his capacity as president of the stock exchange branch of the RAF Association. Colby, who was dis-

appointed to receive only 27 replies from last year's mail-shot, is optimistic that the increase in volume in the stock market might encourage recipients to be more generous this time. He is optimistic that the FT-SE 100 index may also increase further.

### Rookie returns

SENIOR UK institutional salesman, Alan Rooke, one of about 35 people made redundant by Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull last month, has resurfaced at Nikko Securities. Rooke, aged 44, and after 23 years in the market more commonly known as "Rookie", has been appointed a senior manager at Nikko. He had been with SQST for 18 months and was employed before that by Pru Baché. "Nikko built up a research base to cover UK and European equities and to service Japanese clients," Rooke explains. "Now the idea is to expand to service UK institutional clients as well."

CAROL LEONARD









## Exploration costs cut Enterprise earnings

By MARTIN BARROW

HIGHER exploration costs and the absence of significant disposals depressed first-half earnings at Enterprise Oil, the oil exploration and production company.

In the six months to the end of June, net income fell from £82 million to £60.3 million despite higher oil prices and another increase in levels of oil production.

Earnings were 13.2p a share, compared with 18p. The interim dividend is lifted from 6p to 6.5p.

The most significant development of the period was the formation of a joint venture with France's Elf Aquitaine to buy Occidental Petroleum's North Sea assets for \$1.35 billion.

Enterprise owns a third of the joint venture, which is expected to produce up to 100,000 barrels a day by 1995.

Under the agreement, Elf transferred part of its potentially hostile 25 per cent shareholding in Enterprise into the joint venture, retaining just 10 per cent of the British company. Graham

Hearne, chairman and chief executive of Enterprise, said that in addition to reducing the potential instability attached to large blocks of shares the agreement with Elf brought forward some of the group's production profile, which will help to finance a large capital expenditure programme.

In the first half of this year Enterprise spent £56.4 million on exploration and appraisal, compared with £35.8 million in the first six months of last year. Exploration costs written off were £41 million, against £17 million.

Significant discoveries were made in Britain, Norway, Italy and the Far East which should at least replace this year's oil and gas production. Average daily output during the period was 127,900 barrels of oil equivalent, up from 116,200 barrels of oil equivalent, realising a price of £12.13 a barrel, compared with £10.58.

As a result, turnover rose from £207.5 million to £244.4 million.

Lower interest rates resulted in a reduction in net interest income by £7.4 million to £30.1 million. There were no gains from asset disposals (£11.4 million last time).

Mr Hearne said: "Our development programme continues to accelerate in terms of spend but, by the same token, to bring us nearer to substantial increases in production."

"The Occidental assets represent an important addition to our portfolio and the co-operation with Elf removes an uncertainty that has inevitably attracted attention in the past."



Hearne: joint venture

### COMPANY BRIEFS

**ARREYCREST (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £32,000 (£1.5m)  
EPS: 0.1p (4.2p)  
Div: 1.2p (same)

Opportunities to supply down by up to 35 per cent. Sales performance points to growth in market share.

**CELESTION INDS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £10.8m (£0.1m)  
EPS: 1.32p (0.7p)  
Div: Nil (Nil)

Reassignment of activities led to seasonal bias towards second half. Group has programme for recovery in second half and next year.

**COPYMORE (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £0.61m (£0.62m)  
EPS: 3.5p (3.0p)  
Div: 1.0p (0.8p)

Debtors at June 30 were more than £1.1m lower than on December 31. Directors anticipate a satisfactory outcome for 1991.

**J HEWITT & SON (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £0.2m (£0.4m)  
EPS: 3.6p (7.9p)  
Div: 1.0p (1.0p)

Significant capital investment has been made in plant and machinery. Chairman says the signs he is now seeing are quite encouraging.

**ERITH (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £0.36m (£1.42m)  
EPS: 0.56p (2.16p)  
Div: 1.3p (1.3p)

Company has suffered from high level of bad debts. Outlook for rest of year difficult to forecast. Board confident of long-term prospects.

**MOLYNEUX ESTS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £0.7m (£0.6m)  
EPS: 1.37p (1.32p)  
Div: 0.5p (0.5p)

Net borrowings are £17.6m. Further rent reviews and expected new leases are expected to benefit group in current financial year.

**A & C BLACK (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £0.16m (£0.21m)  
EPS: 6.9p (10.1p)  
Div: 4.25p (4.25p)

Turnover benefited from acquisition last August of Adlard Coles. Conditions remain extremely depressed, says chairman.

**GOWRINGS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £0.53m (£0.16m)  
EPS: 15.9p (1.2p)  
Div: 1.0p (2.25p)

Conditions continue difficult. Action taken over past year has helped cut overheads. Trading levels for second half will be like the first.

**LINTON PARK (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £2.5m (£4.2m)  
EPS: 7.8p (13.6p)  
Div: 2.5p (2.5p)

Profits decline mainly due to lower contribution from Malawi estates. Associated Fisheries profit was £714,000 (£775,000).

**CAKEBREAD ROBEY (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £0.19m (£0.32m)  
EPS: 1.20p (3.3p)  
Div: None declared

Market has continued depressed with sales declining and margins under pressure. Difficult to see any improvement this year.

### ALLIED DUNBAR ADAPTABLE MORTGAGE PLAN

Bank of Scotland announces the following change in the Allied Dunbar Adaptable Mortgage Plan Rate which for new borrowers is effective from 11th September 1991 and for existing customers, from 1st October 1991:

**Adaptable Mortgage Plan  
11.65% per annum**

Bank of Scotland, Residential Mortgages,  
Central Banking Services,  
Teviot House,  
41 South Gyle Crescent,  
Edinburgh EH12 9DR.

Allied Dunbar Assurance plc, Allied Dunbar Centre,  
Swindon SN1 1EL.

**BANK OF SCOTLAND**  
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

## The Prudential casts off estate agency chains



Work for Anthony Haggood, Bunzl chief executive

THE Prudential has unshackled itself from the wreckage of its estate agency business and the strength of its core operations is starting to make itself felt.

Two factors caused the 41 per cent rise in the insurer's pre-tax profit to £170 million in the first half of the year. First, there was no loss from estate agency, which ran up a £23.7 million deficit in the same period last year. Second was the unexpected £17.1 million fall in losses from general insurance to £54.2 million.

The driving force behind the Pru's profit was, as ever, its British life business. The recession has hit sales of annual premium products, but the Pru countered this with strong growth in single premium products. Overall, gross premiums rose 15 per cent to £1.5 billion.

Jackson National Life, the American subsidiary, also demonstrated its potential. The increasing maturity of its life fund produced an 80 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to \$47.6 million.

Mick Newmarch, the chief executive, is succeeding in his strategy of returning to basics. He must, therefore, find his failure to sell Mer-

cantile & General, the Pru's reinsurance subsidiary, all the more annoying.

M&G has effectively been for sale for most of the year. The Pru, however, has discovered that the market for financial assets is almost non-existent. So the group has decided to retain the business.

The results show the group is capable of achieving a profit of £320 million this year, putting the shares, at 252p, on a p/e ratio of 24. The interim dividend of 3.8p points to a full-year payout of 11.4p, and a yield of 6 per cent. A fair value, given the prospects for further recovery.

### Costain

ONLY a few days ago, Tempus took a positive view of George Wimpey since it was possible to see how the company planned to claw its way out of recession. The same cannot be said for Costain.

After a 71 per cent slide in interim pre-tax profits to £5.7 million, a warning of further land bank provisions suggests a full-year loss is a real possibility.

April's £77 million rights

issue was to take the heat out of a balance sheet damaged by the purchase of Pyro, the American coal mining company. The exercise was a partial success in that year-end was 66 per cent of the half year and would be lower but for the strong dollar.

Costain's three divisions, however, continue to make miserable progress against recession. Particularly disconcerting is mining, where operating profits fell 18.5 per cent. As for housing, where provisions have already cost the company £45 million in two years, there is no sign of an end to the nightmare, with property contributing a £6.7 million operating loss.

Assuming more land provisions put pay to this year's profits, Costain could limp to a profit of £20 million in 1992. Even after yesterday's slide to 110p, that puts the shares on a price/earnings multiple of about 20 one year out. Avoid.

### Bunzl

WHEN the economic history of Eighties Britain is written, Bunzl may well serve as a classic case study. The company was a victim of acquisition fever, using its

highly rated paper to create a corporate Frankenstein's monster, leading, as in the novel, to the downfall of its maker, in Bunzl's case the former chairman and chief executive James White.

Two years into the recession, the beast is still far from tamed, as the first set of figures to be presented by Anthony Haggood, the new chief executive, amply demonstrated. First-half pre-tax profits fell by almost a third to £20.6 million, but more significantly, the interim dividend was slashed from 4.3p to 2.9p, removing at a stroke the main underpinning for the shares. In the long term, the cut will no doubt be judged as prudent. In the short term, Bunzl will lose its status as a high yield stock.

The new Bunzl management still has its work cut out to create a coherent organisation and the job of selling or turning round the underperformers must be seen as a two-year project. Forecast pre-tax profits of £43 million give 6.2p of earnings, putting the shares on a prospective price earnings multiple of 14.7. There are many better value recovery plays on offer.

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the III with its superb paper handling ability. For quality allied to the speed modern business demands - an outstanding 16 pages a minute - HP LaserJet III has no rival.

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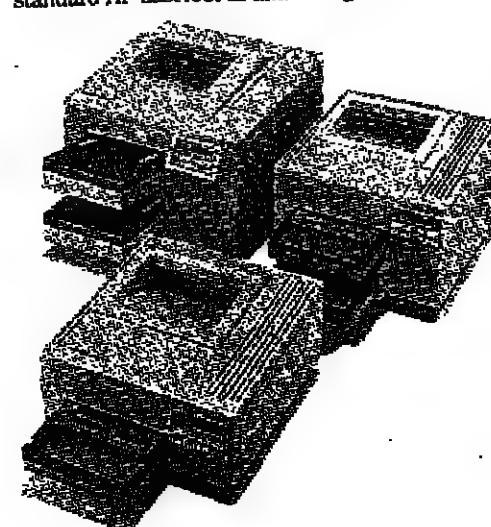
You'll notice that we haven't added a modest "probably". Because if you want the best in laser printers, the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet is undoubtedly it.

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Amox	20%	20%	Gen Cloxy
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21%	21%	Phips Dodge	65%	65%
21%	21%	Stunt Boat	70%	70%

**FTSE 100 VOLUMES**

## RECENT ISSUES

## MAJOR INDICES

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited, A Victoria Company







THE TIMES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 1991

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operating in  
the world  
...the most  
...the most  
...the most

**CJA**

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**Sell**

## MONEY MARKETS

Compared with 1986 was down at 91.2 (day's range 91.2-91.5).

**RATES**

1 month	9 month
1-4% 5-4% 6-4% 7-4% 8-4% 9-4% 10-4% 11-4% 12-4% 13-4% 14-4% 15-4% 16-4% 17-4% 18-4% 19-4% 20-4% 21-4% 22-4% 23-4% 24-4% 25-4% 26-4% 27-4% 28-4% 29-4% 30-4% 31-4% 32-4% 33-4% 34-4% 35-4% 36-4% 37-4% 38-4% 39-4% 40-4% 41-4% 42-4% 43-4% 44-4% 45-4% 46-4% 47-4% 48-4% 49-4% 50-4% 51-4% 52-4%	1-4% 5-4% 6-4% 7-4% 8-4% 9-4% 10-4% 11-4% 12-4% 13-4% 14-4% 15-4% 16-4% 17-4% 18-4% 19-4% 20-4% 21-4% 22-4% 23-4% 24-4% 25-4% 26-4% 27-4% 28-4% 29-4% 30-4% 31-4% 32-4% 33-4% 34-4% 35-4% 36-4% 37-4% 38-4% 39-4% 40-4% 41-4% 42-4% 43-4% 44-4% 45-4% 46-4% 47-4% 48-4% 49-4% 50-4% 51-4% 52-4%

Week End: 10%  
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52%

**OTHER STERLING RATES**

Argentina dollar	17082.3-17100.8
Australian dollar	5.1553-5.1555
Belgian franc	0.0475-0.0485
British dollar	711.80-712.34
Canadian dollar	0.8025-0.8125
French franc	7.1075-7.1075
German mark	225.15-225.25
Hong Kong dollar	13.2625-13.2625
Indian rupee	44.35-44.70
Israeli sheqel	1.487-1.487
Japanese yen	4.7670-4.7710
Malaysian ringgit	0.550-0.550
Mexican peso	2.2825-2.2825
Netherlands guilder	0.3475-0.3475
New Zealand dollar	0.4375-0.4375
Portuguese escudo	204.8-204.8
Saudi Arabia riyal	0.2515-0.2515
South African rand	0.6875-0.6875
Swedish krona	0.4505-0.4515
Sri Lanka rand	0.2891-0.2892
Taiwan dollar	0.2505-0.2505
US dollar	1.4875-1.4875
Yugoslav dinar	13.2625-13.2625

**DOLLAR SPOT RATES**

Australia	1.2320-1.2350
Belgium (Cont)	11.94-11.96
Canada	0.7130-0.7135
Denmark	6.5450-6.5450
France	5.7625-5.7675
Germany	1.8825-1.8875
Italy	7.4875-7.4775
Japan	134.85-134.95
Malaysia	2.7350-2.7350
Netherlands	0.3410-0.3410
New Zealand	0.6325-0.6375
Portugal	145.25-145.25
South Africa	1.7025-1.7025
Spain	166.45-166.55
Sweden	0.1550-0.1550
Switzerland	0.4850-0.4872

**ECB's Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance, Week-to-date July 31, 1991 Agreed rates**  
24, 1991 to Sept 24, 1991 Scheme 1: 12.51%  
Scheme 2: 12.34%  
Scheme 3: 12.34%  
Scheme 4: 12.34%  
Scheme 5: 12.34%  
Scheme 6: 12.34%  
Scheme 7: 12.34%  
Scheme 8: 12.34%  
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Scheme 48: 12.34%  
Scheme 49: 12.34%  
Scheme 50: 12.34%  
Scheme 51: 12.34%  
Scheme 52: 12.34%

**LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES**

Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	2944.0	2957.0	2926.0	2942.0	10715
Previous open interest: 43221				2942.0	8
Three Month Sterling	90.80	90.85	90.75	90.80	5113
Previous open interest: 12552				90.85	14530
Three Month Euro Dollar	90.80	90.85	90.75	90.80	1043
Previous open interest: 18589				90.85	1543
Three Month Euro DM	90.80	90.85	90.75	90.80	1043
Previous open interest: 18589				90.85	1543
US Treasury Bond	90.80	90.85	90.75	90.80	1043
Previous open interest: 43221				90.85	8
Long Gilt	90.80	90.85	90.75	90.80	1043
Previous open interest: 43221				90.85	8
Japanese Govt Bond	90.80	90.85	90.75	90.80	1043
Previous open interest: 43221				90.85	8
German Govt Bond	90.80	90.85	90.75	90.80	1043
Previous open interest: 43221				90.85	8
Three month ECU	90.80	90.85	90.75</		

Year	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100																																																																																																		
1970	140.00	140.40	140.80	141.20	141.60	142.00	142.40	142.80	143.20	143.60	144.00	144.40	144.80	145.20	145.60	146.00	146.40	146.80	147.20	147.60	148.00	148.40	148.80	149.20	149.60	150.00	150.40	150.80	151.20	151.60	152.00	152.40	152.80	153.20	153.60	154.00	154.40	154.80	155.20	155.60	156.00	156.40	156.80	157.20	157.60	158.00	158.40	158.80	159.20	159.60	160.00	160.40	160.80	161.20	161.60	162.00	162.40	162.80	163.20	163.60	164.00	164.40	164.80	165.20	165.60	166.00	166.40	166.80	167.20	167.60	168.00	168.40	168.80	169.20	169.60	170.00	170.40	170.80	171.20	171.60	172.00	172.40	172.80	173.20	173.60	174.00	174.40	174.80	175.20	175.60	176.00	176.40	176.80	177.20	177.60	178.00	178.40	178.80	179.20	179.60	180.00	180.40	180.80	181.20	181.60	182.00	182.40	182.80	183.20	183.60	184.00	184.40	184.80	185.20	185.60	186.00	186.40	186.80	187.20	187.60	188.00	188.40	188.80	189.20	189.60	190.00	190.40	190.80	191.20	191.60	192.00	192.40	192.80	193.20	193.60	194.00	194.40	194.80	195.20	195.60	196.00	196.40	196.80	197.20	197.60	198.00	198.40	198.80	199.20	199.60	200.00	200.40	200.80	201.20	201.60	202.00	202.40	202.80	203.20	203.60	204.00	204.40	204.80	205.20	205.60	206.00	206.40	206.80	207.20	207.60	208.00	208.40	208.80	209.20	209.60	210.00	210.40	210.80	211.20	211.60	212.00	212.40	212.80	213.20	213.60	214.00	214.40	214.80	215.20	215.60	216.00	216.40	216.80	217.20	217.60	218.00	218.40	218.80	219.20	219.60	220.00	220.40	220.80	221.20	221.60	222.00	222.40	222.80	223.20	223.60	224.00	224.40	224.80	225.20	225.60	226.00	226.40	226.80	227.20	227.60	228.00	228.40	228.80	229.20	229.60	230.00	230.40	230.80	231.2



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Quality control by Essex as they move ever closer to the county cricket championship

## Stephenson's century rocket

By JOHN WOODCOCK

LEICESTER (second day of four): Essex, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 52 runs ahead of Leicestershire

ANOTHER good day's cricket, although a very much colder one, ended with Essex well in control. Except for an hour in the afternoon, when they lost four wickets while scoring only 43 runs, they batted splendidly. So far, no one could have asked to see a match of more strokes, and there are still two days.

After the start had been delayed for a quarter of an hour by drizzle, Gooch and Stephenson came out of the gate as though it was a five-furlong sprint. They had 155 on the board in 31 overs by lunch, and 189 before being parted.

Stephenson seems to me to have changed his game since he played, long before he was ready, in his one Test match, against Australia in 1989. He bats now in the no-nonsense way that Gooch once did, making full use of his bulk.

This was Stephenson's third hundred of the season. His last six championship innings have brought him two of them, as well as scores of 97 and 85.

He is still only 25, and if he is disappointed not to have got a tour, either last winter or this coming one, his turn could come again. The competition, though, is building up among young opening batsmen: Darren Bicknell, Fordham and Ward, not to mention Altherton and Hugh Morris, make it a pretty strong market.

The other particularly good innings of the day was played by Hussain — once he had found his timing. He, too, got his third hundred of the season. Watching him make 197 against Surrey a year ago I thought he might have lost forever the flair and confidence which he had before breaking a wrist in the West Indies. But he looks now to be getting them back. He played some glorious strokes — and he stands like a batsman at the crease.

For the fifth wicket Hussain and the lively Garnham, holding the bat well up the handle,



Out of sorts: despite his concentration, Ratcliffe was the first of the Warwickshire opening batsmen to be out at Northampton. Report, p36

added an unbeaten 173 after the Essex innings had gone temporarily into decline.

Denied, like Stephenson, a winter tour, Mills tried for all he was worth to convince Gooch that the selectors had got it wrong. Instead, his first six overs cost 50 runs. Stephenson taking four fours off the last of them as though realising, already, that this was to be his day. If so, it was hardly surprising when he had just played Maguire quite firmly on to his stumps without removing a ball, and been dropped at long leg, when 33, off the suffering Mills.

It remained not so much a case of Leicestershire bowling

badly as of Gooch, and especially Stephenson, giving them no chance to settle down. After starting the day by confirming that nothing Leicestershire can do will keep him at Grace Road after this season, Lewis began by looking only moderately interested, but it was he who broke the opening partnership and in the same spell removed Prichard and Salim Malik.

Curiously, in view of their own fast-scoring grounds, Essex have the lowest of all county first wicket records — a mere 270 — and Gooch and Stephenson were well on the way to beating it when they were parted. On Tuesday half

a dozen overs had seldom passed without someone sending for a cool drink. This, surely, needs to be more carefully controlled. Now a dram would have been more welcome as Gooch, Stephenson, Prichard, caught at the wicket by Benson, substituting for an ailing Whitticase, and Salim Malik all departed, leaving Essex unexpectedly in need of runs. At just the right tempo and with much enterprise Hussain and Garnham obliged them.

Chris Scott, a wicketkeeper who has been understudying Bruce French at Nottinghamshire for the past few years, is to take up a new challenge with Durham, who will enter the county championship next season (a Special Correspondent writes).

### SCOREBOARD

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings 352 (P N Hussain 115, J Wickett 100, N A Foster 5 for 86)

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch 100, B Lewis 113, P J Prichard 5, S Benson 2, Lewis 9

Salim Malik 100, B Lewis 113, P J Prichard 5, S Benson 2, Lewis 9

N Hussain not out 107, W A Gooch not out 23

Extras (b 8, lb 11, w 5, nb 2) 26

Total (4 wickets) 405

Scores after 100 overs: 405-4.

D R Pringle, N A Foster, T D Topple, J H Childs and P M Such to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-189, 2-200, 3-223, 4-232

Bonus points: Leicestershire 5, Essex 8

Umpires: M J Kitchin and K E Palmer

## Scott makes fresh start at Durham

CHRIS Scott, a wicketkeeper who has been understudying Bruce French at Nottinghamshire for the past few years, is to take up a new challenge with Durham, who will enter the county championship next season (a Special Correspondent writes).

Scott, aged 27, will make his debut for Durham in the three-day match against Victoria, the Sheffield Shield champions, which starts at Durham University next Tuesday. Durham's opponents will include Test players Merv Hughes, Simon O'Donnell and Dean Jones, the county's overseas signing for next season.

Scott, who has been given a two-year contract, will provide competition for Andy Fothergill, who is among the latest batch of Durham players to be awarded contracts for next season.

The others are the 16-year-

old Middlesbrough all-rounder, Paul Henderson, the batsman, John Glendene, and the Leicestershire-born Mark Briers, an all-rounder who bowls leg spin.

As well as Jones, Durham have also signed three other players with first-class experience in all-rounder Phil Bainbridge (from Gloucestershire), batsman Gary Brown (Middlesex) and left-arm seam bowler Simon Brown (Northamptonshire).

Geoff Cook, the director of cricket, who will register himself "in case of emergencies" envisages a final squad of 20 players. One name as yet absent from his list is that of Ian Botham.

"We've taken negotiations with Ian a step further forward, and we would hope things might begin to move once he has played his last match for Worcestershire," Cook said.

## Stale Olazábal feels need to take a break

THE task of defending the Ryder Cup for Europe may be only two weeks away, but José María Olazábal is looking forward to nothing so much as a break from golf.

Despite winning two tournaments this season, the Spaniard who occupies second place in the world rankings has been bitterly disappointed by his failure to claim his first major tournament.

Olazábal came closest to landing the big one when he finished second in the US Masters in April behind Ian Woosnam. But his failure to make the breakthrough has left him feeling frustrated and despite the prospect of taking on the Americans in the Ryder Cup at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, he fears that his game is in danger of going stale.

"This is the first season as a professional that I haven't had the same will to play," he said. "I need to take a few weeks' rest. I have played 30 events this year; it's a lot."

Olazábal, aged 25, has already won more than £1.5 million in prize-money in his fifth season as a professional. "I know I am healthy and I am luckier than most... but maybe I need the Ryder Cup to put some spark back into my golf," he said.

Today he begins his defence of the Lancome Trophy at St Nom-la-Breche, near Paris. He has not, however, been

Ryder Cup Points			
Rank	Player	Points	Par
1	Olazábal	4	10
2	Woosnam	4	11
3	Adams	4	11
4	Adams	4	11
5	Adams	4	11
6	Adams	4	11
7	Adams	4	11
8	Adams	4	11
9	Adams	4	11
10	Adams	4	11
Total average: 8.76			
Par: 70			

invited to the world matchplay event at Wentworth next month and does not intend to play the Dunhill Cup and World Cup.

Olazábal says he is puzzled by his omission from the matchplay event, but a spokesman for the sponsors said that it had not been possible to fit him in to the field of 12, which includes the winners of the four majors.

One of those, Woosnam, today flew to Paris on his private plane after celebrating the birth of his third child, Amy Victoria, on Monday.

The world No. 1 is also attempting to rediscover his form, after admitting during the European Open two weeks ago that he "couldn't be bothered to play".

The Lancome Trophy field includes the top 50 players on the European Tour — including the Ryder Cup team, Ian Baker-Finch, the Open champion, gets a wild card, as does Mark Calaverchia, the American, another looking for an improvement in his form.

## World Cup given a timely boost

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WITH rugby union's World Cup still trembling from the after-effects of the collapse of the Keith Prowse Agency, the organisers will have been delighted to announce the identity of a further substantial sponsor yesterday.

To the names of Heinz UK, Ricoh UK, the linked package between Famous Grouse and Société Générale, and Sony can be added Glass South Africa, who trade in Britain as Autoglass but have considerable interests in Germany, France, Italy and Portugal.

The company was formed by a merger of specific interests of Plate Glass Shatterproof Industries (PGSI) and Pilkington, who sponsor the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) national knockout competition.

Clearly there is relief that Rugby World Cup, hit by the loss of the hospitality packages which Keith Prowse was due to organise, can indicate commercial faith in the tournament. Equally, however, the incursion of a South African company indicates a long-term plan to gain further recognition in Europe prior to the 1995 tournament, which South Africa could host.

That is a gamble on the part of Glass South Africa, given the volatile political state of their country. It will do them no harm at all, though, to have been in on the ground floor of the 1991 tournament when the commercial arrangements begin to fall into place for 1995, if the International Rugby Football Board does decide in favour of South Africa (the choice is due to be made in November).

The CPMA Group, commercial advisors to Rugby World Cup, are still considering what may be done to rescue the hospitality operation. They have already decided to make available, without further charge, tickets to companies or individuals who have already paid for packages — an action described by Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, as "generous and correct" — but millions of pounds may be irretrievable.

Even if a limited hospitality operation is launched (and the RFU has had preliminary discussions with its own caterers on the subject) it will still cost subscribers further expenditure, which they may now be unwilling to make.

## Reverse for Reynard

DESPITE working on the project for more than 12 months, Reynard racing cars has announced that it will not be entering the Formula One world championship next year (Stephen Slater writes).

The Bicester-based company has built a reputation as one of the most successful makers of cars in the Formula 3000 and Formula Three categories and has long nurtured the ambition to move into grand prix racing. However, the company chairman, Adrian Reynard, yesterday

cited the lack of a suitable engine supply contract as the reason for his company's withdrawal.

"To be at the front of Formula One we needed to arrive on the scene with our design coinciding with the availability of a proven and competitive engine," Reynard said. "Although the design specifications have been finalised, we have not met our objective of obtaining an engine contract and therefore will be unable to meet our planned schedule."

## Clarke treble inspires Ireland

Faeroe Islands ..... 0

Northern Ireland ..... 5

From IAN ROSS

IN LANDSKRONA, SWEDEN

PERHAPS Northern Ireland should play all future games of any significance on neutral soil. As a bitterly disappointing European championship qualifying campaign nears its climax, it would seem that the Irish have belatedly rediscovered not only their appetite for success but also the cavalier attitude which was an inherent part of their football in the early and mid-1980s.

By defeating, with some considerable ease, the partitioners of the Faeroe Islands in Sweden, Northern Ireland recorded their first win in group four to improve substantially their chances of receiving a

sympathetic seeding when the draw for the qualifying stages of the next World Cup is held in the United States in December.

Having been allowed, if not positively encouraged, to launch a series of telling raids, the vast majority of which went unchallenged, the Irish removed the threat of any possible embarrassment by scoring three times in the opening quarter of an hour. The early goals came at regular intervals, punctuating football which fluent and incisive.

The erosion of the Faeroes' confidence began in the seventh minute when Wilson stabbed home a low shot after a McDonald header from Black's right-wing cross had been scrambled off the line. Five minutes later, Clarke scored unattended deep within the penalty area to head home.

Sensing that the Faeroes were in a state of complete disarray, the Irish pushed home their advantage and duly claimed a third goal after 15 minutes, when McDonald hooked in a firm shot from ten yards.

The second period was just six minutes old when the defensive frailty of the Faeroes was once again exposed. Dowie's deep cross from the right prompted Knudsen, the Faeroes' goalkeeper, to move away from his line but, in attempting to punch clear, he succeeded only in colliding with Dennison at the far post. The ball fell invitingly for Clarke, who scored from close-range.

Having failed to halt the Irish by fair means, the Faeroes had no hesitation at all in employing underhand tactics. Morkore was cautioned for a savage late challenge on Black

in the 57th minute and he was very fortunate to remain on the field after assaulting Morrow in almost identical fashion just 90 seconds later.

However, Morkore's good fortune was not to be extended for, in the 67th minute, he was dismissed, for a second bookable offence, after deliberately handling a Taggart header in the penalty area. Clarke made light of the ensuing controversy to stroke home the penalty kick.

FAEROE ISLANDS: J Knudsen (goalkeeper), J Jacobsen (captain), T Hansen (forward), M Christensen (midfielder), A Thomsen (defender), A Morkore (defender), T Hansen (defender), J Dine (defender), A Hansen (forward), K Reynaldsen (forward), J Johnson (goalkeeper), NORTHERN IRELAND: T Wright (Newcastle United), M Donaghy (Sheff Wed), J Magilton (Colindale), J Dorey (Wolverhampton Wanderers), K Wilson (Glasgow), J Dowie (Southampton), C Clarke (Portsmouth), K Black (Nottingham Forest), S Huchinson (Fife).

## Vicious Vinny's mask hides a sensitive centre

By LAURA THOMPSON

TWO faces of Vinny Jones will be in evidence today. One, the familiar visage of the bad boy of English football will make its appearance in London at a Football Association disciplinary hearing into charges of misconduct. The other, rather less familiar, will appear on television making the case against racism in sport.

A new series of *Critical Eye* begins on Channel 4 this evening with a look at the phenomenon of the black footballer in England. Jones makes the programme worth watching. It comes to light whenever his blunt instrument face and burrow-boy shout fill the screen, contorting themselves with earnest effort as he performs the

anachronistic action of thinking for himself.

"They can't single out black guys because half of the teams now in England are maybe a third made up of them," he says. "All your top British athletes, top boxers, they're all black guys; instead of trying to attack them, it's turned... they're winning your gold medals and they're doing this for you, you know? People are looking up to them."

In the flesh — which is like chamois leather irregularly stitched with scars, and he has hands like hods — his conversation is hardly suave but it is instinctively rigorous. Whatever his public image, in person he appears incapable of making a remark that he did not mean.

Jones is an anti-racist. Cue

more surprise, I suppose. Do not clusters have fondant centres?

He went on *Critical Eye* because he thought that hard men might take note of their hero's liberal opinions. "I've come off the building site, you know, I've been on the terraces, they know that I know what they're thinking. They think of me as one of their own."

His travels have taken him from the comparative obscurity of non-League football to fame and fortune at Wimbledon, Leeds United, Sheffield United and now Chelsea.

"The sort of stick that black guys get now, they can live with," he says. "I always find if you're black or white, the guy that's the character in the

side gets all the abuse. If I wasn't at Chelsea, Kerry Dixon would get it."

"Like John Fashanu — but because Fash is black, that's another little pop they can have at him. They weren't really having a go at his colour



Jones: hands like hods

but, immediately you want to hurt somebody, you look at them and you say what you think is going to hurt them. It's just a symbol; it's black people as a symbol. Five years ago, I saw bananas thrown at Fash. But nothing much goes on anymore."

Partly, this is due to the erosion of racism, partly to the change of image in British football since the World Cup. Jones says: "They've got the interest back and when you've got the interest in something and it's not stale anymore, positive things happen. I reckon in another five years the terraces are going to be well straightened out. But I don't think you will ever lose the risk of it blowing up again."

gence could clearly be a force for good. He is capable of communicating with the more aggressive element of a football audience — the element that is also responsible for encouraging with the hammerhead shark/nut cluster persona.

Who is to blame if people are surprised that Vicious Vinny should turn out to be a thinking man? But, after all, the assumption that image provides a key to character is not much different from the racist mentality: proof that one should always do as the boy Vincent does, think for oneself.

*Critical Eye*, Channel 4, 9pm

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